

King Fahd wants to inject new blood into government

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said he wanted to inject new blood into his government when he reshuffled his cabinet last week.

In a televised speech four days after he replaced his oil minister and 15 other cabinet members, King Fahd also said he wanted to maintain strong ties with the United States and as well as European, Arab and Islamic countries.

"The change in the cabinet does not mean there were errors. I think it is better to give an opportunity to other Saudis," he said at a swearing-in ceremony for his new ministers at the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

Former ministers were also present.

The king, who is also prime minister, said his role and that of the crown prince, Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, was to "cooperate" with the ministers and "ease their task."

"I will not hesitate in any case to speak with a brother (minister) about a constructive measure," he said, adding he will do the same with the members of the Consultative Council and the "citizens."

When it comes to government decisions, "the rule is the attachment to the Koran and the Sunna," the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad.

"In foreign policy, we want to be friends with everyone, the United States, as well as European, Islamic and Arab countries," he said.

Saudi Arabia "was not looking for disputes with anyone but was also not ready to give up one of its rights," he added.

"We want friendship among Arab countries and Islamic countries and to (preserve) special relations which exist with European countries and America," he said.

King Fahd Wednesday appointed 10 new ministers to a 28-member cabinet, including Ali bin Ibrahim Al Nouaimi, president of the state-run oil company Saudi ARAMCO, who replaced Hisham Nazer as oil minister.

Under the basic law, or mini-constitution, issued by the king in 1993, the government was due to be dissolved in 1995 and successive cabinets appointed for mandates of four years.

King Fahd said: "We are not creating problems to anyone but we do not accept that anybody should create problems for us or to insult Saudi Arabia as a country or as a people."

Saudi Arabia has moved so far this year to settle its border with the United Arab Emirates, signed a border deal with Oman and a framework for delineating its border with Yemen and is said to be preparing a settlement with Kuwait.

He is expected to discuss bilateral relations including a border dispute with Qatar.

Two of Mr. Hussein's guards have also been held.

An opinion poll published Friday showed that 46 per cent of Saudis are against the king's activities while only 23 per cent support them wholeheartedly and 29 per cent only when they act within the law.

Three times in recent weeks, Saudis have opened fire outside Mr. Hussein's house.

U.S. Consul-General Ed Abington has branded Israeli security forces "extraordinarily lax" against those who fired the shots.

"This is vigilante action which in any Western country would be condemned as premeditated harassment and the authorities would deal with it in a very firm fashion," the senior American diplomat in Jerusalem said.

Police announced Thursday evening, apparently after Mr. Abington's outburst, that six Israelis, most West Bank settlers, had just been detained.

Jewish settlers set up anti-PLO spy ring

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli religious activists and settlers have created a network to spy on PLO officials as part of a campaign to force the closure of the Palestinian headquarters in annexed East Jerusalem.

Armed with pistols, portable telephones and video cameras, a group of 20 men film comings and goings or tail the cars of Palestinian officials who want a share of the holy city for the capital of their own future state.

With city hall support, they are building up files which they hope to use in court or for propaganda in the struggle to maintain Jewish sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

The settlers' interests range wide and include property acquisitions by Palestinians, the opening of offices and gun permits.

The group, from the highly politicized Beit Orat Bible institute on the Mount of Olives, work surveillance shifts outside the PLO headquarters called Orient House.

or other targets such as the home of Faisal Hussein, the de facto PLO "minister" for Jerusalem.

Among their victims is Ahmad Tibi, an Arab born in Israel who acts as an adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

They also maintain a less than discreet presence outside the American Colony hotel, frequented by Palestinian society in East Jerusalem.

The "spies" have published a map of alleged PLO government offices in East Jerusalem and accuse the government of turning a blind eye to Palestinian attempts to strengthen the Arab character of the annexed sector of the city.

The Israeli parliament passed legislation in December outlawing official Palestinian political activities in Jerusalem.

The Forum for Greater Jerusalem, a right-wing body lobbying to expand the municipal borders to include a large swathe of the occupied

West Bank, has thrown its weight behind the campaign of intimidation.

The forum has set up its office in a tent outside Orient House.

Rabbi Shmuel Meir, deputy mayor of Jerusalem and a member of the National Religious Party, is pulling many of the strings. His presence implies at least the tacit support of Mayor Ehud Olmert of the right-wing opposition Likud.

"We are trying to disclose everything that the PLO does illegally in Jerusalem," he said.

According to Meir, there are 51 PLO-affiliated offices in East Jerusalem where 500 Palestinian preventive security agents operate.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has admitted that 200 agents of Jibril Rajub, the preventive security chief for the self-rule enclave of Jericho, work in the Holy City.

But some settlers do not limit the campaign to simple surveillance.

Iraqi opposition on verge of falling apart

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — The alliance of Arab and Kurd opponents forged after the Gulf war to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is close to collapse, wracked by bloodshed, personal rivalries and distrust.

The United States and Britain have been trying to hold together the coalition, which they encouraged after the 1991 conflict and have since provided air cover in the declared "safe haven" of northern Iraq.

But Iraq also has been wooing the Kurds with calls for a resumption of contacts with the government in Baghdad, which lost control of the north of the country after the war.

Retired General Hassan Al Naqib, a leading opposition figure, said the Iraqi National Congress (INC) alliance was "finished" and that the lives of Arab opposition figures in Iraqi Kurdistan were in danger.

"The Arab branch (of the opposition) is the most important, and the INC is no longer capable of assuring the fall of Saddam Hussein," said the Sunni Muslim retired general.

The general is one of the

three leaders of the INC, based in northern Iraq, along with Kurdish chief Massud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and Sayed Mohammad Baht Al Ulum, a Shiite religious leader.

It has been more than a year since the three-member leadership council has met, and Mr. Ulum suspended his participation three months ago to protest the way decisions were made.

"I won't go back to northern Iraq any more because I cannot work properly there. It's a hopeless situation," Gen. Naqib told the Arab daily Al Hayat from the Syrian capital last week.

An INC official in London, Kassem Ghali, said: "I fear that the conflict between General Naqib and Mr. Barzani will only lead to a split between Arabs and Kurds."

Another key Sunni Arab opposition figure, Wafiq Al Samarra, charged that Mr. Barzani had tried to have him assassinated since his defection to northern Iraq last December.

On Thursday, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani accused Mr. Barzani's group of having formed a secret alliance with President Saddam Hussein.

But KDP spokesman Fazi Atrushi, contacted in London, dismissed all the charges and defended his group.

"The KDP does not need a certificate of patriotism from a former chief of military intelligence," he said. As for Mr. Samarra, he was "one of those who carried out the genocide of the Kurdish people" in an Iraqi onslaught in 1988.

An INC spokesman in London, Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, admitted that the coalition was in a crisis.

"The effectiveness of the INC has diminished because of fighting in Kurdistan," he said over the telephone, referring to inter-Kurdish fighting over power and tax revenues that has cost more than 2,000 lives since May 1994.

The PUK-KDP clashes "have deprived the non-Kurdish opposition of a base in Iraq," Mr. Abdul Jabbar added.

The two groups are to hold peace talks between Aug. 9 and 11 in Lisbon under U.S. mediation, while Britain also urged the INC to close ranks

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria puts out oil well fire

DAMASCUS (R) — Fire fighters have put out a fire at an oil field in northeastern Syria which had been raging since May. Oil Minister Nadir Nabulsi said Sunday. He said in a statement the fire at Al Izba Oil Well, near the Deir Al-Zor city, some 450 kilometers northeast of Damascus, was totally under control and the well was capped Saturday. He said the fire was caused by a blowout at the field which he described as rare in its size, nature and the volume of its pressure. A spokesman for the U.S. Boot and Coots Company said in New York last month that his firm was helping to fight the fire and cap the well. He said the blowout was burning 80,000 barrels per day of light crude oil.

Opposition: S. Arabia is still feudal

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is still run in a "feudal and tribal" way despite the government reshuffle announced last week, an Islamic opposition group said. "The Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) sees no real changes in the policy, concept or attitude" of the government, the London-based group said in a statement received in Cyprus late Saturday. "The country is still labouring under the tribal and feudal mentality of Al Saud," it said. "There are no changes in the government's policy or its views of state or society." The only salient reorganisation is one administration," King Fahd Wednesday appointed 16 new ministers to a 27-member cabinet. "All the appointees are of the Uraiah

Heep mentality, bowing and scraping," charged the CDLR, referring to an obsequious character from a work by Charles Dickens. The CDLR was founded in 1993 by university professors and Muslim religious leaders who accuse King Fahd of being corrupt and criticise his "undemocratic" methods.

Iran students protest newspaper ban

TEHRAN (AFP) — Hundreds of Islamic radical students held a rally at Tehran University Sunday to protest the closure of a popular left-wing newspaper. University officials closed the gates to the campus during the rally in front of a mosque, barring entry to anyone without a student card. The authorities banned the Peyman-E-Daneshjoo (Student's Message) weekly last Monday after accusing it of printing sensational news items and failing to discuss it of the country's press law. The paper was very popular for its open and biting criticism of Iranian leaders. A notably President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. In a militant speech to the rally, the former managing director of the weekly, Heshmatollah Tabazadi, criticised the ban as a "violation of the constitution and freedom of expression." He blasted university authorities for ordering the gates closed during the protest, saying the move was reminiscent of the repressive measures taken towards university students by last shah of Iran. The 1979 "Islamic Revolution" triumphed after people crashed through the closed gates of universities, in a sign of protest, he told protesters. "Closing the newspaper does not solve the problems," Mr. Tabazadi added, referring to the country's social and economic ills formerly addressed by Peyman.

Turkish constitution changes please the West

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's recent democratisation drive has delighted the West, but the country is left with a more difficult challenge if it is to be admitted into the European Customs Union next year.

A package of constitutional amendments approved by parliament on July 22 took Turkey by surprise and drew praise from the European Commission, France and the United States.

Local and international human rights groups, however, were outraged that it did not address political prisoners, prison torture and the disappearance of detainees under investigation.

And experts say the changes, which among others allow associations political activity and lower the voting age, fall just one step short of letting Turkey into the customs union.

That one step — scrapping political restrictions — is likely to set conservatives on a collision course with reformists and could drag out parliamentary debates endlessly.

"Turkey is very aware of what it has to do for the European Union in order not to endanger the customs union," said Jorg Ketelsen of the European Commission in Turkey.

The European Parliament is to decide in December on Turkey's entrance into the customs union.

"If the government manages to make a substantial change in article eight, or to cancel it, this could be the last stone on the way to a final yes by the European Parliament," Mr. Ketelsen told AFP.

The infamous Article 8 belongs to the "anti-terrorist" law passed in the late 1980s in a bid to stem the Kurdish separatist movement.

The government and the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) have been engaged in an 11-year battle that left 20,000 people dead, including soldiers, militants and civilians, official figures say.

Article 8 outlaws any act that could threaten Turkey's integrity and sovereignty.

State security courts invoked it last year to send six parliament deputies to jail for terms ranging up to 15 years, and the European Parliament wants them freed.

Some 2,500 people have been convicted under the article with 6,000 others charged including professionals, association leaders and about 120 journalists, according to human rights groups.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller recently told the Belgian daily La Libra Belgique that Article 8 was "incompatible with a democracy," and was the last obstacle to be overcome.

She hopes to get the 450-member parliament to abrogate or change it.

"The anti-terrorist law is basically to prevent terrorist propaganda," said Murat Ersavci, a Ciller aide.

"We need to introduce changes to enable the law to ensure that people can speak

In Egypt, tying the knot can be a costly affair

CAIRO (R) — "It's ridiculous," says the 25-year-old Egyptian engineer. His fiancée nods in agreement.

"We're hiring a belly-dancer with a chandelier and Western and Eastern bands. We've ordered a 10-tier cake and laser show. A singer is also coming. And by the way, we're also almost broke," added Ahmad Salem, describing his wedding.

"But if we didn't do all this, what would the guests say, that our daughter isn't good enough for a proper wedding?" asked fiancée Sahar Kamal, mimicking her mother.

The couple shrug resignedly. He sighs she seems near to tears. Their combined annual salaries total less than \$13,000 in a country where wedding can now cost as much as \$30,000.

"Weddings have become status symbols, occasions for economic and social showing off," said Professor Nazeek Nosseir, an Egyptian social researcher.

"This phenomenon has increased despite skyrocketing costs, and each wedding tries to outdo the one before it," she added.

In Egypt, who comes to your wedding and how much it costs define your standing as much as the car you drive.

For the unemployed and impoverished majority of Egypt's 60 million people, spending up to 100,000 Egyptian pounds (\$30,000) on the night of a lifetime was not an option until social clubs and community halls introduced wedding-by-installment schemes.

Now, instead of spending at most about \$300 on strings of fairy lights and enough sherbat — a syrupy celebration drink — to keep the neighbourhood happy, many are borrowing from relatives or employees to keep up appearances.

"The amount of social pressure you have to go through is unbearable. I've agreed to do what she and my parents want just to get everyone off my case," said a 24-year-old who asked not to be named for fear his fiancée's parents would read this.

Caterers pump up the price accordingly, turning weddings into a multi-million-pound-a-year business.

"We try to cater each party according to the guest, but there are standards we do not go below," said Ashraf Sobhi, assistant banquet manager for a posh Cairo hotel who hosts at least two

ceremonies a day during the summer.

Guests can enjoy a three-course buffet in the mirrored ballroom for an average cost of 100 Egyptian pounds (\$30) per person. A minimum of 200 people is usual, meaning a cost of at least \$6,000 — before extras like a belly-dancer (\$1,500), Eastern and Western bands (up to \$2,700 total), cake (up to \$300) and laser show (up to \$450).

"I know people who have spent so much money on their wedding that they didn't have enough for a honeymoon," said Ehab Younis, an engineer based in Italy. "If they don't make a ceremony that's expected, their family will lose face and for the elite, nothing could be worse."

A belly-dancer and tables groaning under piles of food have for centuries been the basis of a socially acceptable Egyptian wedding.

The bride sits statuesque on a throne-like chair beside her husband, grinning inanely at her guests after being heralded into the room by a 30-strong band complete with cymbals, trumpets and tambourines.

The buffet comes about half-way through the ceremony, which can last as long as six hours. With full stomachs, the guests settle down to enjoy the band, occasionally ululating with pleasure.

Marriage in Islam, Egypt's official religion, is a two-part affair: The official agreement between the couple witnessed by as cleric, and the announcement the marriage has taken place. Some think the bigger the announcement, the more religious they are.

"So much conditioning goes into these affairs that the line between religion and society gets fuzzy," one Muslim woman said. "You can satisfy your religion even better without all that unnecessary expenditure — and of course a belly-dancer."

Some strict Muslims frown on these ceremonies, calling them modern innovations and quoting a saying of the Prophet Muhammad that all innovations lead to damnation.

"Some couples flout what is perceived as their social duty and do their own thing, not spending tons of money and having a good time," said Kamal. "But they are brave and we are not."

Salem sighs and nods.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TV

14:00 Animals of Farthing Wood

14:30 Hey Day

15:00 Survival

16:00 Families

17:00 Spirou

17:30 Film: "Colline"

19:00 News in French

19:15 French Varieties

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Camp Wilder

20:00 McFaul's Navy

20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful

21:15 Hearts of the West

22:00 News in English

22:25 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries

23:25 Film: "Antony and Cleopatra"

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 Fajr

05:49 (Sunrise) Duha

12:41 Dhur

16:22 'Asr

19:33 Maghrib

21:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swatish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Terrace Church Tel. 622346

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 638511

623543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623526

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641495

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions with occasional north-westerly moderate to active in Amman. A cold spell is not expected until late September.

Min./Max. temp. 17/31

Dew pt. 25/39

Aqaba 16/38

Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

readings: Amman 41 per cent. Aqaba 26 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Arafat Al Aashah 412507

Dr. Mohammad Shogair 625693

Dr. Ghaleb Zaidan 734011

Dr. Khalil Al Tash 757253

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778365

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636750

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmoukhi pharmacy 617601

Al Tash pharmacy 623672

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Oamu 950323

Alquds pharmacy —

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khasshash 950323

Khalil pharmacy 95417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Recieve Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 696390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 615841

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 697467

Complaints 697467

Amman Municipality 767111

Complaints 767111

Telephone Information 121

Emergency assistance 101230

Central Amman Telephone 625391

Repair 625391

Abdali Telephone Repair 64101

Jordan Television 771111

Radiar Jordan 774111

Water Authority 660101

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 18-53201

Queen Alia Intl Airport 18-53201

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussien Medical Centre 81381332

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malik, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmoukhi 649131

Shmoukhi Hospital 649131

University Hospital 649545

Al-Mushter Hospital 6672737

The Islamic, Abdali 66612707

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661646

Al-Bahar, J. Ashraf 77511126

Al-Bahar, J. Ashraf 77511126

Army, Marika 89161115

Queen Alia Hospital 61024050

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 665199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Gen. Hospital 01993323

Zarqa National Hospital 01993323

Ibn Sina Hospital 01998732

Al-Hijma Modern Hospital 01999090

Princess Baena Hospital 02127555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02127555

The Al Nalea Hospital 02127101

Princess Haya Hospital 03314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)532015, where it should always be verified.

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Beirut (RJ)

12:15 Milan (add) (RJ)

12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

13:10 Cairo (RJ)

13:20 London (RJ)

13:30 Damascus (RJ)

21:45 Frankfurt (RJ)

21:45 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)

22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

23:15 'Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:20 Sunan (RJ)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

18:00 New Delhi (RJ)

18:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

19:35 Beirut (RJ)

17:15 Cairo (RJ)

17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:00 Bangkok (RJ)

19:18 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

21:45 Milan (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:50 Khartoum (SD)

13:40 Doha (O7)

13:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:30 Kiev (UL)

18:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

20:25 Cairo (MS)

21:00 Beirut (ME)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

22:25 London (BA)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

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21:45 Milan (add) (RJ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500

Banana 600

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Cabbage 100/50

Carrot 200/100

Cucumbers (large) 160/100

Cucumbers (small) 200/100

Eggplant 180/100

Garlic 650/500

Lemon 300/200

Marrow (large) 200/150

Marrow (small) 330/250

Mulukhiyah 120/80

Okra 800/600

Onion (dry) 800/600

Onion (small) 400/300

Orange 420/320

Peaches 400/300

Pepper (hot) 200/100

Pepper (sweet) 160/100

Potato 300/200

String Beans 440/300

Sweet Melon 280/180

Tomato 140/80

Water Melon 120/60



Iraqi singer Kazem Al Saher (centre) and his troupe perform Saturday night at the finale of the 14th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. By popular demand, the Iraqi musical group were to give an additional performance at Jerash's South Theatre Sunday night (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

PLO clinic doctors fear salary cuts are a sign of things to come

Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — A recent decision by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza to reduce the salaries of 23 Palestinian physicians working in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) clinics in Jordan has caused concern among PLO cadres in the Kingdom, one of the affected physicians told the Jordan Times.

"There are fears among members of the PLO in Jordan that a recent move by the PNA to cut the salaries of 23 PLO physicians by half could indicate the beginning of a trend in the PLO leadership to no longer fulfil its obligations towards its men and their families in Jordan," the physician, who preferred anonymity, said.

"We fear that the PNA is waiting to see our reaction to this move and will then gradually cut financial support for all recipients of PLO money here in Jordan," he added.

According to the doctor, the 23 physicians working for the PLO in the Kingdom were informed of the PNA's decision to, as he described it, "put them on reserve," in a letter which did not give any reason for the move to cut the salaries.

Coming at the end of two financially very difficult years for the clinics, the PNA's decision could finally bring the doctors' activities to a standstill.

Physicians would then be forced to seek employment elsewhere.

Allegedly, the PLO has not paid the rent for the building in which the Amman clinic is housed for

the past two years.

The doctors themselves had to collect money from rich donors and relatives to pay the rent and electricity, water, and telephone bills and to pay the salaries of the workers.

Physicians' salaries were paid late, and from January to July 1994, we were not paid at all," the doctor complained.

According to Ghazi Hussein, general supervisor of the Palestinian Social Security Department, the accumulated debt of the PLO clinics amounts to around \$165,000.

Approximately 20,000 Palestinian families benefit from services in the three clinics in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid.

But even though the Amman clinic, opened in 1984, is still operating, offering ear, nose and throat, gynaecological and dental treatment, surgical operations, X-rays, laboratory tests and medicines to 70 patients every day, its days are numbered unless the PNA reverses its decision, the doctor said.

Recipients of the medical treatment include 2,000 previous PLO fighters, some of whom are severely handicapped as a result of their participation in PLO activities, and whose survival depends on affordable medical care.

According to a spokesman from the Palestinian Embassy in Amman, many of the patients who were previously treated in the clinic have left for the West Bank and Gaza, significantly reducing the number of patients seeking treatment in Jordan.

In addition, he said, most of those who still remain are

expected to leave Jordan in the next months, following an agreement between Israel and the PLO on expanding Palestinian self-rule.

But the 23 physicians who would be affected by the PNA decision said this reasoning was not convincing. They asked why they have not been invited to move to the West Bank and Gaza, to make their services available to residents there, if they are no longer needed here.

According to the physician who spoke to the Jordan Times, the Palestinian Ministry of Health is writing daily in the press about its need for medical specialists, but no invitation to move to the West Bank or Gaza has reached the PLO's physicians in Jordan.

As a result, doctors who have worked for the PLO for little money over the years, he said, feel betrayed.

Allegations that the PLO clinics had not been providing any health services to their beneficiaries for more than one and a half years, and that this was one of the reasons for the reduction of the salaries, reached the physicians through unofficial channels.

Physicians reject this accusation strongly, citing instead the efforts they made to keep the clinics operating in the face of serious financial difficulties.

Repeated requests for an official explanation of the PNA's decision from the physicians and the Palestinian Social Security Department have so far remained unanswered.

Visiting U.S. official tours refugee camps with head of Palestinian affairs department

AMMAN (J.T.) — Office Director of the Refugee Programme at the United States State Department Michael Metrinko met here Sunday with the director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ibrahim Tarshih, to discuss problems related to Palestinian refugees.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Metrinko discussed the quality and conditions under which refugees live in the camps in particular, as well as plans to improve the living conditions of camp residents.

Mr. Metrinko, who will stay in the Kingdom until Friday, was expected to tour refugee camps in Jordan and hold more talks with officials and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) representatives.

Accompanied by UNRWA General Coordinator Dennis Brown, Mr. Metrinko was briefed by Mr. Tarshih about the government's continued assistance to the refugees and basic services offered them by government departments.

Nearly 40 per cent of the total number of Palestinian refugees have lived in Jordan since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war when they were forced to flee their lands, Mr. Tarshih said.

The peace era requires further efforts on the part of the world community, especially the United States, to ensure continued and better services to the refugees, he said.

He said that UNRWA needs to continue improving services until a final settlement has been found for the refugee problem.

Any reduction of the level of services to the refugees would have serious consequences on the whole area, said Mr. Tarshih who also demanded that donor nations help the agency shoulder its responsibilities.

The failure of UNRWA to carry out its humanitarian services would have a negative impact on the Middle East peace process, he added.

Commenting on the Cabinet's decision Saturday to allocate JD 259,000 towards improving conditions at the refugee camps, Mr. Tarshih said the decision came in line with the government's continued efforts to improve general services and general conditions at the camps.

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The peace era requires further efforts on the part of the world community, especially the United States, to ensure continued and better services to the refugees, he said.

He said that UNRWA needs to continue improving services until a final settlement has been found for the refugee problem.

Any reduction of the level of services to the refugees would have serious consequences on the whole area, said Mr. Tarshih who also demanded that donor nations help the agency shoulder its responsibilities.

The failure of UNRWA to carry out its humanitarian services would have a negative impact on the Middle East peace process, he added.

Commenting on the Cabinet's decision Saturday to allocate JD 259,000 towards improving conditions at the refugee camps, Mr. Tarshih said the decision came in line with the government's continued efforts to improve general services and general conditions at the camps.



Palestinian children at the Baqa' refugee camp help in cleaning a construction site (UNRWA file photo)

In a statement to Petra, Mr. Tarshih said that senior officials from his office toured all refugee camps in Jordan in order to determine the res-

idents' needs. Besides basic public services, these communities requires proper roads, he stated.

Mr. Tarshih said that his department was keen on seeking more financial aid from the government in order to further carry out essential services.

Ministry appeals to U.S. to allow Iyad Nejem's parents to attend trial

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Foreign Ministry has appealed to U.S. authorities to allow the parents of Iyad Nejem, the Jordanian citizen charged with involvement in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, to attend the trial of their son, the Jordan news agency, Petra, reported Sunday.

The 24-year-old Nejem is accused of driving the vehicle that transported the bomb onto the World Trade Centre.

He was extradited from Jordan to the U.S. last Thursday.

Petra said Justice Minister Hisham Tal assured Nejem's parents at a meeting in his office Sunday that the government was in continuous contact with U.S. officials with regard to the parents' request to be allowed to

attend their son's trial.

Nejem pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges related to the blast that killed six people, injured 1,000 and caused millions of dollars in damage to the 110-storey twin towers in Manhattan.

Nejem, who has been assigned a court-appointed lawyer at Manhattan Federal Court, was ordered to reappear in court on Aug. 16.

"He is charged with the 'planning' stages, extortion stages and particularly transportation of the bomb," U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White told a news conference before Nejem's arraignment.

The accused's father, Mahmud Nejem, told Reuters on Thursday: "I have a sweeping feeling that he is innocent because he chose to go to New York and to meet the officials there."

Japan to study electricity loss in Jordan's national power network

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to conduct a study designed to minimise the loss of electric energy distributed by JEA throughout the country.

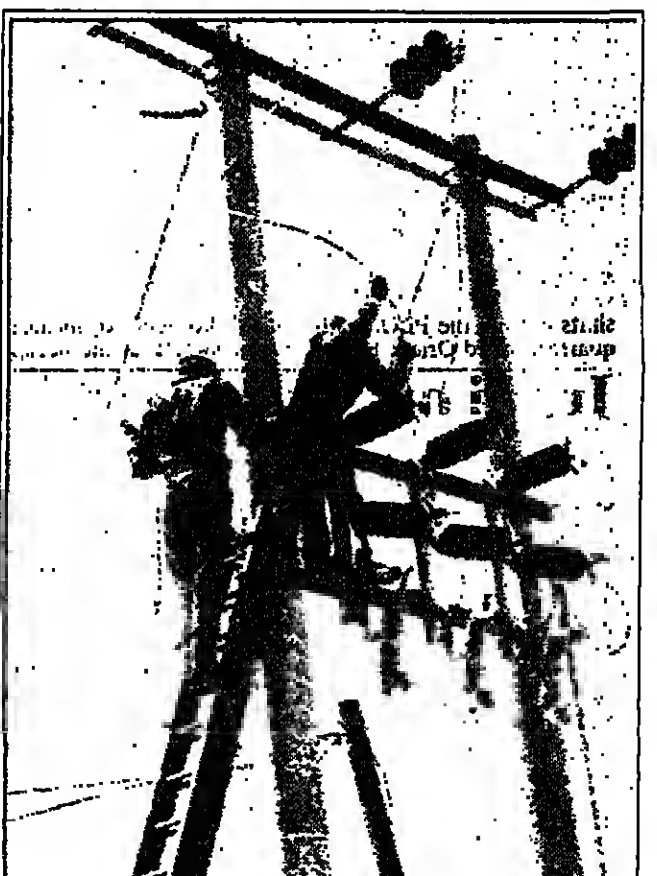
JICA official Yushitaka Adakwa, who signed the memorandum, said with Mohammad Azzam, the JEA deputy director general, in a statement that a JICA team has arrived to Jordan to conduct the study and find new means for improving the process of electricity distribution to the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) and the country's power generation stations in Jordan.

The JICA team will conduct a general survey and collect information about the electric power situation before the study.

According to Mr. Azzam, the JEA is intent on reducing and eliminating the electric power loss because it would mean a significant savings of fuel which has been required to generate the electric power stations. He added that conserving electric power would provide a better supply to the consumers.

He estimated the current loss of electric power at 15 per cent.

Referring to other difficulties in power supply, Mr. Azzam said that the power supply reaches 99 per cent of the urban and rural regions of Jordan, but the long cables carrying the power cause further energy



Jordan Electricity Authority engineers at work on power lines (file photo)

losses on the way.

He said the JEA requires new technology to curb such losses, hence the signing of the memorandum with JICA.

Mr. Adakwa, who is assistant director to JICA's Department of Energy and Minerals, said his team will start working with the concerned parties in Jordan after the survey has been completed.

He remarked that the present technology in use here

is traditional and requires development in order to deal efficiently with the problem.

Mr. Adakwa said JICA will dispatch two Jordanian experts to Japan to familiarise themselves with his country's system of fully exploiting electric power.

Prior to signing the memorandum, the JICA team visited various power generation stations in Amman and Aqaba and the JEA's power control centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee prepares for King's birthday

Amman (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday chaired a meeting of a higher committee charged with preparing for the country's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday on Nov. 14. The enthusiasm of people from all walks of life to celebrate this occasion reflects the Jordanian people's love and loyalty to King Hussein, who devoted his life for the advancement of Jordan, Sharif Zeid said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khalid Karaki, who chairs a special sub-committee in charge of following up on preparations for the celebrations, reviewed ideas and programmes proposed by the various bodies to mark the occasion, saying that such ideas and programmes will be translated into days of joy all over Jordan.

Yemeni minister to arrive for talks

Amman (Petra) — Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development and Planning Abdul Qader Bajamal arrives here today Monday on a week-long visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other senior officials from the ministries of planning, and energy and mineral resources.

WHAT'S GOING ON

MEETING

* Meeting of the Amman Rotary Cosmopolitan Club at the InterContinental Hotel Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 1:30 p.m. (instead of Wednesday).

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery.
- * "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.
- * Handicrafts and souvenirs at Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Britain hopes to reduce Jordan's debt before MENA summit, says envoy

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman — British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe Sunday said his government will do all it can to reduce Jordan's debt to London prior to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held here in October.

Jordan's remaining debt to the United Kingdom currently stands at JD 369 million to the form of export credit guarantees, Mr. Hinchcliffe told the Jordan Times.

"We are going to do our best (to remove the burden of debt), but we are not sure if anything can be done before the MENA summit," said Mr. Hinchcliffe.

Britain wrote off around JD 50 million of debt fol-

lowing the signing of the Washington Declaration in July 1994, the ambassador said.

The outstanding debt of JD 369 million arose during the late 1980s.

Bilateral trade increased during that period, but the successive economic slump rendered many Jordanian companies incapable of meeting financial commitments made with British firms. Those companies insured by the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) recovered their losses from the ECGD, explained Mr. Hinchcliffe.

The ECGD is a British governmental organisation, therefore debts accrued are repayable to the British government.

Jordan's economic slump resulted from the devaluation of the dinar in 1989 and the aftermath of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis: the international trade embargo on Iraq, the blockade of Aqaba, the influx of around 300,000 returnees and the subsequent loss of remittances and the lapse of trade with Gulf countries.

"Jordan has one of the most debt burdened governments to the world, (owing) about JD 6 billion, whether as loans to be repaid, as export credit guarantees or to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and others," Mr. Hinchcliffe said.

The problem of debts owed as export credit guarantees, said the ambassador, is that investors' faith in a country's ability to fulfil commitments is lessened. The main objective of the MENA summit is to entice

massive investment in the region.

However, former Minister of Finance Sami Gammo said in January that the IMF recommendation to extend about \$53 million in additional credit facilities to the Kingdom was an expression of confidence in Jordan's economic performance.

Mr. Hinchcliffe stated that it must also be remembered that the Paris Club, of which the U.K. is a member, meets annually to discuss debt rescheduling. Debt rescheduling by the Paris Club has been carried out over the past three years, he said, adding that although immediate debt servicing is then stalled, the overhanging debt is a burden to the Kingdom and inhibits development.

"When Mr. Major visited

Jordan (in March) he said he would do what he could to relieve the country... in appreciation for the signing of the (Jordan - Israel) peace treaty and to show support for Jordan," Mr. Hinchcliffe noted.

The ambassador said that although Britain would like to follow in the footsteps of the United States which recently wrote off the Kingdom's debt to Washington, including export credit guarantees, "the ECGD is a governmental organisation that can't show a loss." Therefore, he added, a measure such as this would require a political decision as opposed to an economic one.

"Jordan is not in the league table of poor countries. It is a middle income country," he said, "but the

difference between it and other middle income countries is its involvement in the peace process and raised expectations since the signing of the peace treaty."

The options in hand, said the ambassador, include the repurchasing of debt at a lower cost than actual value, known as "debt swap." Debt swap allows for the amount to be repaid to be pumped into developmental projects.

Instead Britain could write off more of the outstanding debt or at worst it could remain with the ECGD which at least levies interest at far cheaper rates than banks, he said.

"We would like to be able to write off more, but we can't go so far," Mr. Hinchcliffe reiterated. "We are trying to do something by the time of the MENA summit."

Murayama tries to quell factional struggle to save coalition

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama is battling to stop factional power struggles within his ruling coalition from ruining plans for a cabinet reshuffle aimed at giving a fresh start to the alliance after an electoral setback.

Mr. Murayama is faced with the difficult task of holding the three-party coalition together while leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and New Party Sakigake grapple with internal power struggles after a poor showing in upper house elections held in July.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader's plans to reshuffle his cabinet could be thrown into disarray with LDP chief and Foreign Minister Yohsei Kono's position being challenged by party stalwart Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is minister of international trade and industry.

The LDP, which is the largest force in the 13-month-old coalition, is preparing for party presidential elections in September.

"Nothing should be entangled with the presidential election of the Liberal Democratic Party," Mr. Murayama said at a Sunday news conference in Hiroshima after attending a commemorative

event for the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city.

The prime minister added that the power struggle between Mr. Kono and Mr. Hashimoto was "an internal party affair."

The coalition was shaken two weeks ago by Sakigake chief Masatoshi Takemura's threat to quit as head of the party and also give up his post as finance minister to take responsibility for his party's poor performance in the upper house elections.

Mr. Murayama has affirmed that he was asking Mr. Kono and Mr. Takemura to stay on in their posts "to strengthen cooperation and mutual trust among the party chiefs" and maintain the balance of power within the coalition. He is also expected to ask Mr. Hashimoto to remain as trade minister.

Mr. Kono, however, is reluctant to keep his cabinet portfolio when his chairmanship of the LDP is at stake with strong competition from Mr. Hashimoto, analysts said.

Mr. Kono said Saturday he had difficulty remaining as foreign minister "not for personal, selfish reasons."

"I am arguing (against staying) because the cabinet should be reformed in a way

which clearly shows what it is aiming to do."

Senior LDP member Kanezo Muranaka, who belongs to a faction opposing Mr. Kono's rule, argued Sunday that he was trying to link the party's position in the coalition to the upcoming party polls.

"The foreign minister is linking the cabinet reshuffle to the party election," Mr. Muranaka said in a panel discussion organised by the Japan Broadcasting Corp.

The influential Asahi daily said in a report Sunday that Mr. Kono was "keen to leave the foreign minister's post with his eyes fixed on the party's presidential election."

"The rivalry between Mr. Kono and Mr. Hashimoto is likely to be deepened however the election is settled," it added.

Press reports said Mr. Hashimoto, who returned home from a South East Asian tour Saturday, was expected to be contacted soon by the premier about the impending cabinet reshuffle.

The reshuffling has been expected ever since the balance of power was altered in July 23 elections for seats in the House of Councillors, with the LDP making only modest gains, Sakigake win-

ning a few seats and the SDP recording its worst showing in any upper house polls.

The opposition Shinshinto, or New Frontier Party, made the largest gains in the polls.

Mr. Murayama, who was elected premier last year as result of a marriage of convenience between the LDP and the Social Democrats, has refused to step down despite the upper house elections debacle.

On Sunday, he said the cabinet needed to be reshuffled as soon as possible to continue administrative and economic reforms and to secure Japan's economic recovery. "I have to consider a fresh cabinet to respond to all of these things," he said.

In two rounds of meetings Friday, both Mr. Kono and Mr. Takemura refused to commit themselves to stay in their respective posts, although they told Mr. Murayama they would remain in the cabinet in unspecified posts.

The three were to meet again Monday.

Mr. Murayama said the reshuffle would take place in the first half of the week, without specifying the date. Parliamentary sources said the most likely date would be Tuesday.

Castro lashes out at U.S. embargo

HAVANA (R) — Tens of thousands of Cubans led by President Fidel Castro marched to condemn the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, and Mr. Castro said his country would fight for 100 years more to resist a U.S. threat.

Wearing his familiar olive-green fatigues, the Cuban leader described the pro-government rally in Havana "a miracle of patriotism and revolutionary spirit."

He said at least half a million people took part in the march, despite a torrential rain shower lasting some 20 minutes that delayed the procession half an hour.

Mr. Castro joined the front

of the demonstration marking the anniversary of 1994 riots quelled by the authorities after the rain stopped.

The Cuban president, speaking at the end of the one-hour march that filled the four kilometre Malecon Seafont, condemned what he called the "cruel and unjust" U.S. embargo against the Communist-ruled island.

He said Cuba could not expect quick relief from the embargo because "extremist elements" in the United States were dictating U.S. policy. Mr. Castro was apparently referring to right-wing Republicans who dominate U.S. Congress and

want to tighten the restrictions.

"If these extremist elements triumph, and manage to win control not only of the Senate but also the government, this will mean for us new periods of dangers, risks and blockades," Mr. Castro said. "So I'm not exaggerating when I say, if we have to fight 100 years more, then we will fight 100 years more."

Several hundred foreign guests attending an international youth festival in Havana, including many from the United States, also took part in the demonstration, visibly soaked.

Kazakh nuclear activists march on Hiroshima bomb anniversary

ALMATY (R) — Anti-nuclear activists from Kazakhstan began a two-day "march of peace" Sunday to mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atom bombing of Japan and to protest at nuclear testing in China.

Some 200 banner-waving demonstrators gathered at the State Circus before climbing aboard buses to take them to the town of Khorog, on the border with China's Xinjiang province where Beijing carries out its nuclear tests.

At a weekend symposium Zitta Mazhitova, head of a children's health centre, compared the impact of nuclear testing to AIDS — which kills victims by destroying their resistance to infection.

"The whole world is concerned by AIDS, but our children are suffering from an ecological immunodeficiency," she said.

Health Ministry radiologist Rizaita Aitmagambetov said his research found the death rate had doubled and birth rate halved over the past 30 years in four regions around Semipalatinsk.

Birth defects, immune deficiencies, nervous disorders, blood illnesses and cancer rates had all surged over the period.

Karipbek Kuyukov, who joined the march, was born in 1968 without arms — the result, his doctors said, of nuclear blasts 150 kilometres from his village.

His father, Teltai, who wit-

nessed tests in the 1950s as a child, lost his father, mother and sister to cancer. Two of his children born in the 1960s died aged just a few months.

Mr. Karipbek is now an artist — painting landscapes using brushes held in his mouth and between his toes — and a spokesman for Kazakhstan's test victims.

He said struggling local people were still risking exposure to radiation by returning to the test range to collect scrap metal which they sell to buy food.

Marchers said Kazakhstan had suffered more over time from nuclear testing than Japan, even though more than 200,000 died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki from the 1945 bombings.

"There were two explosions of relatively small force in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Here there were hundreds of nuclear explosions. The number of victims is still rising," Nevada-Semipalatinsk Vice-President Zhenish Sadykov told Reuters.

Nevada-Semipalatinsk — named after the U.S. and Soviet test sites — is protesting against Chinese testing at nearby Lop Nor and French plans to resume blasts in the South Pacific.

"We must complete five minus five," Mr. Suleimenov said, repeating a slogan demanding the closure of all test sites.

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Cali cartel boss arrested in Colombia

CALI, Colombia (AFP) — Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, reputed kingpin of the Cali cocaine cartel, was arrested early Sunday at a home here in the latest blow to the world's most powerful drug gang, police said.

Police chief Rosso Jose Serrano said Mr. Rodriguez was arrested while sleeping in a residence in western Cali, some 500 kilometres west of Bogotá. Four other people were arrested in the raid.

The suspects offered no resistance, police said. Two small briefcases believed to contain key information about the drug organisation were also seized.

Members of the combined army and police anti-drug team had been searching the Cali region for Mr. Rodriguez for weeks. On Saturday, the task force raided a clinic in Cali where he was believed to have been.

Mr. Rodriguez, who had been the number-two leader of the Cali group, was believed to have taken the reins of the powerful and politically connected cartel following the arrest June 9 of his brother, Gilberto.

U.S. officials have said the Cali organisation is responsible for as much as 80 per cent of the world's cocaine production, and Miguel Rodriguez has been indicated in several U.S. cities on drug trafficking charges.

Five of the cartel's seven key leaders — including Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela — had already been either arrested or surrendered to officials in recent months.

Following the latest arrest, the only top leader of the cartel still at large is Helmer Herrera.

The drug organisation is believed to have a pervasive influence over Colombian

political and economic life.

Colombian Defence Minister Fernando Botero resigned Wednesday amid allegations that he used drug money to fund President Ernesto Samper's presidential campaign last year. Ironically, Mr. Botero had been leading the stepped-up campaign to capture the Cali leaders.

Last month, Mr. Samper's former campaign treasurer, Santiago Medina, was accused of accepting a \$50,000 check from a Cali cartel front business.

Mr. Samper has maintained that if any drug money was used to finance his campaign it was done without his knowledge, and he promised to cooperate with any investigation.

At least 345 raids on farms, homes, offices and clinics, resulting in the arrest of 25 people, have been carried out by anti-drug team this year.

Punks sow 3rd night of terror in Germany

HANNOVER, Germany (AFP) — Drunken anarchists went on a rampage in this northern German city overnight, torching cars and litter bins in a third night of violence, officials said Sunday.

An estimated 170 police officers have been injured battling some 1,500 punks from Germany, France, Britain and the Benelux countries who hurled petrol bombs, beer cans, bottles and bricks at them, Hannover police said.

Police measures have been largely ineffective and the situation only began to calm down Sunday morning as an estimated 700 punks left Hannover. But police cautioned against premature optimism.

"These people are totally disorganised and we can't predict what might happen," a spokesman said.

Over the three days, there have been no signs of organised concerts or rallies, no obvious leaders to orchestrate events, no plan of action — only what one punk described as "the biggest party of all time."

Since anarchists gathered Thursday for their annual "Chaos Days," police have had to contend with a deluge of missiles lobbed by punks bent on taking pleasure in fighting the security forces," according to a police spokesman in Hannover.

The rioters, wearing their traditional uniform of denim or leather dotted with studs and chains, and hair dyed every colour possible, sowed terror throughout the city, disturbing passers-by and destroying everything that lay in their path.

Vehicles were set alight and countless windows smashed. Skinheads also broke out between the punks and gangs of skinheads.

Dual Whitewater hearings start this week

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate Whitewater investigators open their fourth week of hearings Monday, calling some of President Bill Clinton's close friends and advisers to testify about handling the papers of the late White House lawyer Vincent Foster.

The final week of the current series of Senate hearings coincides with the opening of hearings by the House of Representatives Banking Committee into the failure of an Arkansas thrift institution whose top official was the Clintons' partner in the Whitewater vacation development.

Madison Guaranty Savings Loan failed at a cost of more than \$47 million to the government, which insures depositors' savings. The Clintons, who had borrowed \$203,000 in 1978 to buy 203 acres of undeveloped land in Arkansas, sold the investment for \$1,000 in December 1992.

The final Senate committee witness will be former White House counsel Bernard Nussbaum who has been portrayed by Republicans on the Senate committee as the person who barred police from looking for a suicide note among Foster's papers.

The committee is trying to discover suicide July 20, 1993.

A torn-up note was found in Foster's briefcase on July 26, 1993, six days after his suicide and four days after Mr. Nussbaum indicated to police the briefcase was empty.

That has held to questions of whether the White House tried to hide papers possibly embarrassing to Democrat Clinton and his wife Hillary. After police were barred from searching Foster's office on July 22, personal papers from the office were taken to the Clintons' private quarters in the White House and later transferred to the Clinton's personal lawyer.

Testimony has indicated that Mrs. Clinton did not want "unfettered access" by anyone to Foster's papers, which included personal letters and the Clintons' Whitewater land deal papers, but there has been no indication Mrs. Clinton played an active role in impeding any search.

There also have been conflicting stories about movement of documents and exactly when the shredded note was first seen.

Mr. Nussbaum, a New York lawyer, has defended his actions in restricting a search, saying there were important government documents and concerns about presidential privilege.

Some Democrats have agreed with Republicans that there were errors of judgement in not letting police glance at papers but they say there was nothing illegal or unethical in Mr. Nussbaum's actions.

Mr. Nussbaum is the final scheduled witness before the Senate committee headed by New York Republican Alfonse D'Amato. Others to be called include presidential counsellor Thomas "Mac" McLarty, Mr. Clinton's former chief of staff, presidential assistance Brooke Lindsey, former counsellor David Gergen and Susan Thomases, a New York lawyer and friend of Mrs. Clinton.

Foster was a boyhood friend of the president and a former law partner of Mrs. Clinton in Little Rock, Ark., before he was named White House deputy counsel under Mr. Nussbaum.

Foster was found dead in a Virginia park from a 38-calibre bullet wound to the head. His death was ruled a suicide by police and a special prosecutor, Robert Fiske.

The Whitewater affair, including the circumstances of Foster's death, are currently under investigation by independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who succeeded Mr. Fiske.

Kim Jong-Il to become N. Korean president in September — report

TOKYO (AFP) — Kim Jong-Il may become North Korea's president around its national day on Sept. 9, a press report said Sunday.

"It is certain that Secretary Kim will assume the presidency within September," the Japanese newspaper Nihon Keizai quoted an informed source in Tokyo as saying.

The leading economic daily also said Kim Jong-Il, the People's Army supreme com-

mander since late 1991, was likely to become head of North Korea's all-powerful Workers Party on the 50th anniversary of its foundation on Oct. 10.

The two top posts have been vacant since the death of his father, Kim Il-Sung, on July 8 last year. Delays in the power transfer, officially attributed to a year of mourning, have raised questions abroad about the junior Kim's health and ability to

govern.

The sources said the Pyongyang-guided General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) had begun preparations for celebrations for Mr. Kim's inauguration.

Chongryun is scheduled to convene its central committee on Sept. 13 and the meeting could be used to commemorate the junior Kim's accession to the presidency, the newspaper said.

Yeltsin's secret study on Russian nuclear safety 'shows many problems'

BERLIN (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has a secret report that reveals serious accidents in his country's nuclear installation and poor protection against nuclear smuggling, the Welt Am Sonntag newspaper said Sunday.

Russian authorities have begun to take action to correct catastrophic dangers as a result of the report that Mr. Yeltsin received on May 19, said the article written by Professor Nikolai Nor-Mesek, director of the Institute for Soviet Studies in Frankfurt.

The report is a comprehensive survey of nuclear facilities, from atomic-powered submarines to nuclear power plants, research centres, uranium mines and plutonium factories, Welt Am Sonntag said.

It covered in detail problems that have become evident since the breakup of the Soviet Union and the splintering of the huge Soviet nuclear complex.

Case of lax security or safety abound. There are fears that low funding could lead to accidents and environmental disasters, and that terrorists and rogue countries could buy weapons-grade nuclear materials sold into the black market by poorly paid nuclear technicians.

Among the details in the article:

— An accident in a Pacific Fleet nuclear submarine in summer 1993 killed 21 Russian sailors and injured two, but navy commanders tried to cover it up.

— There have been serious explosions in a factory making nuclear submarines at Severodvinsk in recent years. Casualty figures are not known but apparently were high as death notices were published for numerous officers and scientists who supposedly died in auto accidents.

— Scientists with nuclear secrets can slip out of the country by paying as little as \$100 to bribe border guards.

— Some strategic weapons system have only half the required crews, with resultant failures in maintenance and poor radiation protection for soldiers.

— Two nuclear power plants, at Tver and Kursk in western Russia, suffer from especially severe safety defects.

— From the beginning of 1992 to May this year there were around 25 serious incidents in Russian nuclear power plants among a total of 7,698 incidents including minor problems.

— Safety standards in uranium mines have not improved since 1963. Miners have worn-out protective gear and little medical support.

The article said the director of the uranium mine called Krasnoyarsk-26 in eastern Siberia, Valentin Lebedev, insisted last year that Mr. Yeltsin visit the mine and personally see the poor conditions after Mr. Lebedev's warnings brought no response from the Russian bureaucracy.

Mr. Yeltsin ordered the comprehensive survey of nuclear facilities after being convinced that there were many dangers, and that his reputation as a guarantor of nuclear safety was at stake, the article said.

Since the report was completed in May, the Russian government has issued more decrees on nuclear safety and has formed working groups to deal with the crisis, the article said.

Problems in Russian nuclear facilities have caused concern repeatedly in other countries, and since the collapse of the Soviet Union more information on the topic has been published.

Last July, for instance, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported that workers at a plutonium-producing plant in Krasnoyarsk hadn't been paid since May, and they were staging protests.

Officials in the nuclear industry said money was needed to help prevent disasters.

Austria's Haider aims to be chancellor in 1998.

KITZBUEHEL, Austria (R) — Far-right leader Joerg Haider has vowed to smash a two-party system that has ruled Austria since 1945 and become chancellor after the next general election in three years time.

Mr. Haider, in a weekend interview with Reuters Television, rejected allegations of racism, saying such talk was a ploy by political opponents to stop him winning the country's top job.

"One of the reasons we are not winning is because far right extremists are being of the debate over immigration policy but this is not correct," he said.

He said the coalition government of Social Democrats and Conservatives was using its control of state television and radio and its subsidies to Austrian newspapers to ensure he is cast in a bad light.

Austria is one of the last countries in Europe with no

communal television or radio.

Mr. Haider said a distinction had to be made between the quarter of a million refugees from the former Yugoslavia living in Austria and "economic" immigrants from Eastern Europe.

"We are a small country in the centre of Europe... We have to accept the refugees, we are obliged to protect the people from former Yugoslavia, but we cannot accept all those coming from Eastern Europe," he said.

He said if he was chancellor now, he would be urging European leaders to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian government "to allow them to defend themselves."

Mr. Haider's party, which was renamed the Freedom Alliance this year, won nearly a quarter of the vote in last year's general election and has the greatest number of parliamentary seats of any far

right grouping in Europe.

Mr. Haider has launched a "Contract With Austria," on similar lines as the U.S. Republicans' "Contract With America," pledging to carry out his policies, such as cutting back the welfare state, within the life of the next parliament.

He has friends among U.S. Republicans, the British Conservative Party and other conservative parties in Europe.

Asked if he wanted to fill the powerful position of mayor of Vienna in regional elections next year, Mr. Haider said: "No. It is very important to have an influence in Vienna because it is the capital of Austria, but my aim is to become chancellor in 1998."

He said he had much in common with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and his views on the European Union are close to

those of the Euro-sceptics in Britain's ruling Conservative Party. He plans to join forces with them in the EU to fight the Maastricht Treaty.

"We prefer a Europe of nations... we are not in favour of a centralised Europe with a very bureaucratic, centralised organisation at the top. This reduces democracy in member states," he said.

He described Austria's neutrality as a relic of the cold war and said it was time for Vienna to join NATO.

He stuck by a statement he made in 1991 praising Adolf Hitler's labour policies between 1933 and 1936 but he said the Nazi dictator went on to create a "hideous, criminal regime."

"I have always made it clear that we do not want to support such ideas or philosophies as the Nazi regime. I have always stated it," he

Villagers ring in the New Year, slightly late

BERCHULES, Spain (AFP) — Spanish villagers ushered in the year of 1995 in two days of celebrations under a scorching Andalusian sun, making up for a power cut which upset their party plans on Dec. 31 last year.

Berchules, in the southern province of Granada, was hit by a 13-hour power cut on last Dec. 31, forcing local authorities to call off the New Year celebrations. Local deputies then decided at an extraordinary meeting to hold the festivities over two days in August.

The village, which normally numbers 900 inhabitants, swelled Friday to 5,000 who were given nougat and aniseed liquor, traditional fare for the New Year. Decked out with paper chains and Christmas trees, the village was sweltering under 39 degree Celsius heat while barrels churned white mousse to simulate snowfall. At midday the church bells sounded 12 times to ring in 1995.

Czech leaders rock to the Rolling Stones

PRAGUE (AFP) — Aging rock fan and Czech President Vaclav Havel joined thousands who turned out to see the aging rock band, the Rolling Stones, in a concert marred only by the drunken behaviour of some German fans.

Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus was also among the 120,000 fans who danced the night away Saturday at the Strahov Stadium overlooking the city's landmark Prague Castle. The concert attracted fans from outside the Czech Republic such as Poland, Slovakia and Germany — the latter enticed by the cheap \$25 tickets. Police said about 300 drunken Germans without tickets pushed through a barricade and lobbed beer cans and bottles at security forces, injuring three of them. Six people were arrested.

The Stones first performed in Prague five years ago, a few months after the "Velvet Revolution" which ousted the Communist regime and brought Mr. Havel to power. The band became friends of the president and were expected to meet him Sunday to present him with a lighting system for two rooms in Prague Castle, according to press reports.

Murders sharply down in New York

NEW YORK (AFP) — New York's reputation for bloody violence is under attack with a sudden dip in the number of murders committed this year, the latest crime statistics show. If projections bear out, the year-end total will be around 1,170 slayings, 400 down on last year and a cracking 48 per cent down from a record 2,245 in 1990.

Murder rate declines have been recorded in other major U.S. cities, but the fall is markedly greater in New York, home to 7.3 million people. The use of racketeering laws to break up drug gangs, tougher laws, policing and sentencing, an easing in the crack drug epidemic and even a harsh winter which kept people indoors are some of the reasons given for the improvement.

Elton John's 'rubbish' to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — Pop star Elton John is annoyed at the auction next week of some of his old belongings, which he called "discarded rubbish."

The sale of entertainment memorabilia at Bonhams Auction House includes mementoes of John Lennon and Mick Jagger as well as platform shoes, shirts and ties of Elton John's provided by former housekeepers.

A statement issued by the star's agent John Reid Enterprises said "the majority of the Bonhams collection can only be described as everyday household goods and bric-a-brac," and described the items as "discarded rubbish" or "gifts" that were never intended for sale. But Bonhams spokesman Ted Owens called John a lecher and said, "one person's bric-a-brac is another person's memento."

John's statement, said the caliber of the material being sold would only undermine the value of true memorabilia. It made clear that while the singer was unhappy with the sale he would not be taking legal action.

John has donated his own belongings for charity auctions in the past. In 1993 he sold his record collection through Sotheby's to raise money for the AIDS charity Terrence Higgins Trust.

Flooding

BEIJING (AFP) — eastern China was still in a state of emergency Sunday as heavy rain flooded people's lives. Thousands have been killed.

"Heavy rain has caused the Yangtze River to rise sharply," said a spokesman for the Flood Control Commission.

"The situation is very serious," he said.

Australians

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australians are mourning the death of a young man who died in a car crash. The victim was a 21-year-old student at the University of Sydney.

The crash occurred on a busy highway near the university campus. The driver was identified as James Smith.

His family is currently grieving the loss of their only son. The funeral is scheduled for next week.

Sind na

KARACHI (AFP) — Sindhi nationalists are protesting against the government's decision to rename a street in Karachi. They claim the new name is disrespectful to their culture.

The protest is part of a larger movement for Sindhi rights and autonomy. Demonstrations have been held in various parts of the city.

Police have been deployed to maintain order during the protests.

American

NAIROBI (R) — American Baptist missionaries in Tanzania have been accused of exploiting the local population. The accusations include claims of financial mismanagement and cultural insensitivity.

The missionaries are part of a long-standing mission in the region. They have been providing medical and educational services.

The local community has expressed concerns about the missionaries' activities and their impact on the environment and local traditions.

World News

illagers ring in the New Year, slightly late

ARCHULES, Spain — The year of 1995 is being celebrated in the village of Archuleles, Spain. The village is known for its traditional Andalusian dancing and music. The celebrations are taking place in the village square, where a large crowd of people is gathered. The village is located in the southern part of Spain, near the border with Portugal. The celebrations are expected to last for several days.

zech leaders lock to the tolling Stones

RAGUE (AFP) — A black fan and Czech Republic flag were seen in the crowd of thousands of people gathered in the village of Rague, Czech Republic, for the annual "Rock for the People" festival. The festival is a major event in the region, attracting thousands of people from across the country. The crowd is expected to be at its peak on Saturday.

Murders in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Violence in New York City is under a sudden dip in the number of murders committed in the city. The latest crime statistics show a decrease in the number of murders from the previous year. The city's police department is credited with the improvement.

Elton John's 'rubbish' to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — An Elton John record collection is being auctioned next week. The collection includes rare recordings and memorabilia. The auction is expected to attract a large number of collectors and fans of the singer. The proceeds from the auction will be donated to a charity.



Police evacuate stranded villagers to safety after water swept through their village in Liaoning province in northeastern China. Serious flooding in the province has left many dead and caused severe damage at one of the country's key oil fields, a report said (AFP photo)

Flooding in northeast China expected to worsen

BEIJING (AP) — North-eastern China's worst flooding in over a century grew still worse Sunday in Liaoning province, where several dozen people have already died and hundreds of thousands have been evacuated. Heavy rains continue to assail the worst-hit regions. The worst may be yet to come, said Meng Fanhua, a spokesman for the province's Flood Control Bureau. "The situation is very critical, especially in Tai'an county, because the water level in the Liao River has risen further," he said by telephone. The province's other great waterway, the Hun River, had already reached its highest level since 1888 last week. Mr. Meng did not update the official death toll in the flooding, saying, "We expect to have a count of victims within 48 hours." The semi-official China News Service reported Thursday that 23 people had died around the provincial capital of Shenyang alone. Official estimates count several dozens of dead elsewhere. As many as three to four million people have been affected by the flooding, with 120,000 houses destroyed, Mr. Meng said. Several hundreds of thousands of people are still threatened by the floods in nine big cities and 39 counties, he said. Some 13 major roads are blocked, while the rail tracks are flooded in 110 places, and in 30 of those cases the tracks have been washed away entirely, he added. Floods have also ravaged the neighbouring province of Jilin, where torrential rains have fallen since July 25. In southern China, flooding this year killed at least 1,391 people, according to official figures posted July 15.

Australians rally in protest at French tests

SYDNEY (Agencies) — The Australian government vowed Sunday not to rest until Paris reversed its nuclear testing policy as thousands of protesters rallied nationwide, citing Hiroshima as a reminder of the deadly power of nuclear weapons. Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said Australia's opposition to France would not relent until Paris scrapped plans to test nuclear weapons in the South Pacific, despite signs that France might reduce the number of tests. "Less is always better than more... but obviously we're not going to rest this one until he gets right back to zero," Mr. Evans said in a television interview Sunday. "We're certainly going to be trying." Australia's diplomatic and economic ties with France have been strained since June when France announced it would launch seven or eight underground nuclear tests in the South Pacific's Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia and September. Australian anger at the French government exploded at rallies honouring the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atom bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima Sunday. Church, trades union and environmental leaders condemned France's nuclear policy. "There is nothing that can justify nuclear testing. Nuclear testing is morally wrong," said Martin Ferguson, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the main trade union body, at a rally of around 5,000 people in Melbourne. In Sydney, some 15,000 people marched past the French embassy, led by a Japanese youth choir. Some held placards targeting French president Jacques Chirac, such as "environmental criminal — Jacques Chirac." Protesters gathered around Sydney Harbour waved a large French flag reading "no more Hiroshimas, Monsieur Hiro-Chirac," reflecting growing anti-French sentiment in Australia. Another group waved signs reading "Hiroshima never again." Around 2,000 marched in Canberra and 6,000 in the Western Australian city of Perth, police said. The rallies were mostly orderly with no arrests, the police said. In Canberra, protesters mounted a mock nuclear warhead atop a French-built Renault car painted in France's national colours, red, white and blue, to protest against the tests. France says the tests pose no harm to people or the environment. Meanwhile the first boats of an international peace flotilla set sail for Mururoa Atoll on Sunday and New Zealand said it would challenge French nuclear testing in the world Court "if it's possible to mount a case."

Sind natives protest killings in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Sindhi-speaking natives in Pakistan's troubled Sind province were on strike Sunday to protest bloodshed in this port city, as five more people were killed, residents and police said. The protest was called by the Sindhi nationalist Jeay Sind Tarraqi Pansad Party (JSTPP) after claims by its members that many native Sindhis, who are the majority community in the province, had been killed in violence that has wracked Karachi. Two unidentified civilians were shot dead by snipers Sunday and three bullet-ridden were found by the police. Eight people were reported killed in the city Saturday with four mutilated bodies in sacks being found by police. Talks between the government and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), an opposition group which represents Urdu-speaking settlers who migrated here after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, remained deadlocked. The government accuses the MQM of waging a terrorist campaign in Karachi but the party denies the charge and has blamed the violence on the "anti-Mohajir" policy of the government. The talks were halted at the end of July after four unproductive rounds. Sindhi nationalists have also blamed the killings on MQM militants. Press reports Sunday quoted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as saying the government was willing to settle with the MQM provided it "quits the politics of violence." Witnesses meanwhile said the Sindhi strike was also observed in villages and rural townships as well as in other cities but the response was partial. Black flags were hoisted by residents in Sindhi-dominated suburban localities in Karachi and in Hyderabad. Sindhi students boycotted university classes in Hyderabad a few hundred staged a peaceful protest march, witnesses said. No incidents were reported during the protest, officials said. "We don't want ethnic violence in Karachi, but it would be difficult to pacify our people if the killings of our people continue," JSTPP chairman Qadir Magi said. Mr. Magi said Sindhi-speaking people had been targeted in Karachi, where more than 2,000 have died over the past 20 months in political and religious violence.

American Baptists kidnapped in Tanzania freed

NAIROBI (R) — Five American Baptists kidnapped by bandits in Tanzania's Mikumi National Park Saturday have been found unharmed, U.S. embassy officials said Sunday. The five — two women, two girls and a man who were attached to Baptist missions in Tanzania — had been contacted by an embassy official and were returning to Dar Es Salaam, the U.S. embassy said. Armed bandits kidnapped the group in a remote area of the park, 250 kilometres west of Dar Es Salaam. A spokesman of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board said by telephone from Richmond, Virginia, that the five had been spotted by a missionary in a plane. Their vehicle, which had been seized Saturday by three armed men, was later found wrecked with one of the bandits dead inside, spokesman Mark Kelly said. He identified four members of the group as Sandy Harrington and her daughter Christine, of Richmond, Virginia, and David and Mildred Moreland of Monroe, Louisiana. The fifth member, the daughter of another missionary couple, was not being identified, he said. Mr. Moreland has been a mission pilot in Tanzania since 1990. Ms. Kelly said it appeared that the motive for the abduction was robbery, and that none of the five had been harmed. "A sixth member of the group, Bill Harrington, was not in the vehicle at the time and was able to alert local officials. Mr. Harrington is a doctor at Kigoma Baptist Hospital, on Lake Tanganyika, where he has been serving since 1989. Tanzanian officials said they had launched a manhunt for the kidnappers. Banditry is occasionally reported from some reserves in Tanzania, but kidnappings are rare and robbery is usually the motive. Four leaders in the East African nation say.

U.S. flag flies over embassy in Hanoi Clinton pleased with results of Christopher's Vietnam trip

HANOI (AFP) — President Bill Clinton is pleased that relations between Vietnam and the United States have taken a step forward with the establishment of full diplomatic relations, a U.S. official said Sunday. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Mr. Clinton from Hanoi after the opening of an embassy here, the first full U.S. diplomatic mission in the Vietnamese capital. Mr. Clinton was very pleased with progress in relations and asked Mr. Christopher to pass on his respects to Vietnamese leaders, the official said. Mr. Christopher also made calls to several Vietnam War veterans who played a key role in pushing forward last month's decision to normalise relations 20 years after the end of the war. Senators John McCain, John Kerry and Bob Kerrey all backed Mr. Clinton, giving him political cover to move on the sensitive issue. Sen. McCain, a former pilot now a Republican senator for Arizona, was shot down over Hanoi and held as a prisoner of war for five years. Sen. Kerrey, a Democrat from Nebraska, was a highly decorated Navy SEAL and lost part of his leg in Vietnam before becoming a peace activist. Mr. Christopher opened the first U.S. embassy in Hanoi Sunday, launching a new era of relations with Vietnam 20 years after the United States saw its only wartime defeat here. Three U.S. Marines in blue dress uniforms raised the Stars and Stripes at the embassy, housed in an office tower in a drab suburb of Hanoi, as American expatriates and Vietnamese officials applauded. "We take a proud step by raising the U.S. flag over the embassy in Hanoi," Mr. Christopher told the crowd packed into a small carpet next to the brown tinted glass and concrete building. U.S. personnel evacuated their embassy in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, in 1975 as the north Vietnamese forces advanced on the city at the end of the conflict that Mr. Christopher said left "our peoples still scarred by war." The legacy has dominated relations for two decades as Washington has demanded Vietnamese assistance in accounting for servicemen who went Missing In Action (MIA). "The fullest possible accounting of our MIAs remains our top priority but by expanding the political and economic dimensions of our relationship we will also advance American interests in other ways," he said. Mr. Christopher stressed that the decision to set up a diplomatic ties was part of Washington's continued engagement in Asia that remained vital for the region 50 years after World War II and two decades after the Communist victory here. "By helping to bring Vietnam into the community of nations, normalisation also serves our interests in working for a free and peaceful Vietnam in a stable and peaceful Asia." The secretary of state said the United States would move ahead in developing economic ties with Vietnam but "much still remained to be done." "By engaging Vietnam on economic reforms, we will further its integration into the economy of this most vibrant Asia-Pacific area," he said. As Mr. Christopher left the embassy he was loudly applauded by Vietnamese waiting outside in the rain and shook hands with people in the crowd. He later addressed the Institute for International Relations, telling several hundred students that the time had come for "open societies and open markets" as the world moved towards democracy. "Sustained economic development is more likely where courts provide due process, where newspapers are free to expose corruption and where business people can make decisions with free access to accurate information." "Our conviction that freedom is both practical and just is neither Western nor Eastern," he said. "Each of you ought to have the right to help shape your country's destiny as well as your own." Vietnam's priority now is economic progress and Mr. Christopher said they had mapped out an agenda that will start with talks on a trade pact but that other benefits such as most favoured nation trading status could take some time. Foreign Minister Nguyen Hanh Cam told Mr. Christopher Saturday that Hanoi wanted to see "the U.S. government to pay more attention to its cooperation with the Vietnamese people to overcome the heavy consequences caused by the war," the official Vietnam News Agency reported. Washington has ruled out reparations and Vietnam has dropped its earlier claims but now wants the United States to open its markets to Vietnamese exports. On Saturday, Mr. Christopher named a career diplomat Desha Anderson as chargé d'affaires. No ambassador has been nominated yet as Republicans in Congress have signalled they will not approve anyone to take the job because of opposition to normalisation. Republicans in the House of Representatives also voted through a measure to block funding to expand the embassy but the measure could still be stopped in the Senate or by President Bill Clinton. Congress would need to approve MFN, and other trade agreements, which could delay their implementation.

Chechen negotiator: Status issue should wait

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — The leading negotiator for Chechen rebels in peace talks with Russia said the thorny issue of Chechen political status should be put aside until after elections in the region and throughout Russia. Khodzakhmed Yerikhanov, Khod Reutiers late Saturday the issue could not be resolved in the talks and should be put aside. "Let us not touch it at all now. Maybe after the next elections, both in Russia and Chechnya, new politicians may be able to resolve it," he said in an interview in Grozny. "The main issue is to settle relations between Moscow and Grozny," he said. Russian and Chechen negotiators last Sunday signed a military accord to end more than seven months of fighting, but clashes have continued in Chechnya and one Russian soldier was killed over the weekend. Talks on unresolved political issues are due to resume Wednesday. Moscow sent thousands of troops in to Chechnya last December after rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev unilaterally declared the region independent in 1991. President Boris Yeltsin made clear in a televised speech last Thursday that Chechnya would remain part of Russia. While Mr. Yerikhanov's comments appeared to indicate the Chechens were willing to bow to Moscow's demand that the status issue should be decided only after elections, he made clear their goal remained independence. "This issue of status cannot be solved now because the current Russian leadership will not risk recognising Chechen sovereignty," Mr. Yerikhanov said. "We understand their situation and we are not pressing Russia to recognise Chechen independence. Of course we cannot recognise ourselves as a subject of the Russian Federation. That is why this question cannot be solved now." Moscow has repeatedly said Chechnya can have only limited self-determination and that its status can be discussed only after Chechens choose new leaders in polls planned for November. Russia faces parliamentary elections in December and a presidential poll next June. Mr. Yerikhanov said Mr. Dudayev, for whom Moscow has issued an arrest warrant, must be allowed to take part in November's poll. "As with all other Chechen citizens, (Dudayev) has the right to be nominated as a candidate and stand in the elections," Mr. Yerikhanov said. "If the Russians decide whom they allow to take part, these elections cannot be called democratic and free," he added. Earlier in the peace process, Russia had proposed Mr. Dudayev and leaders of the Moscow-backed Chechen government quit to pave the way for the elections. Mr. Yerikhanov's former education minister, replaced Usman Imaev as top negotiator after Mr. Imaev said last week he had been sacked by Mr. Dudayev. Russia's military commander in Chechnya, Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, said Saturday the Chechens had failed to provide a full list of Russian prisoners and that the troops would not leave until they handed it over. Mr. Yerikhanov denied he was withholding information and said: "The Russians should start to withdraw their troops now but I suspect they are trying to delay doing so." The military accord entailed a gradual troop withdrawal, disarming of the rebels and an exchange of prisoners. Meanwhile, Chechen rebels killed a Russian Interior Ministry soldier and a policeman was wounded in overnight clashes. ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday. A Russian forces spokesman told TASS Interior Ministry forces had come under fire five times in the past 24 hours. Rebels fired on a traffic police post near the village of Raduzhnoye, 10 kilometres northwest of the capital Grozny, wounding one officer. Russian forces detained two rebels. A temporary holding prison in Grozny, guarded by police, also came under intensive fire early Sunday. One Russian army soldier was wounded by a mine, the spokesman said. In a separate development, a standoff between six men smuggling weapons to the Chechen guerrilla movement and Russian security forces has ended without bloodshed, ORT Russian television reported Saturday. The men were caught in Dagestan last week trying to smuggle arms from Azerbaijan to Chechnya and were surrounded by Russian troops, military officials quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency said. The smugglers gave up their weapons and were allowed to go free Friday, ORT television said. "Probably this is first time in eight months that reason has surmounted forces and we solved this problem without useless victims," Akhmed Zakayev, one of the Chechen delegates to peace talks with the Russians in the capital Grozny, said on television. "Not one shot was fired, from one side or the other," a Russian commander said on ORT. On Tuesday, the smugglers, believed to be Chechens, were reportedly given an ultimatum to surrender or be killed, although the deadline was not clear. Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS reported that men in the southeastern Nozhai Yuri district of Chechnya were volunteering to hand over their weapons in line with an accord signed a week ago between the independence fighters and the Russian authorities. The district was one of the last captured by Russian troops in the war that began in December and has killed between 15,000 and 30,000 people, according to various estimates.

Thousands of Hindus cross Kashmir on pilgrimage

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Hundreds of Hindu monks chanted prayers, blew conches and made offerings to one of Hinduism's most sacred relics Sunday as heavily guarded pilgrims made their way to a cave deep in the Himalayan region where five Western tourists were kidnapped last month. The relics, two six-foot (two-metre) long silver staffs symbolising one of the most powerful deities in the Hindu pantheon, the god Shiva, and his consort Parvati, arrived in predominantly Muslim Srinagar Saturday in a bulletproof car. The maces left Jammu, winter capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, earlier Saturday. Tens of thousands of police and paramilitary troops are stationed along the pilgrims' route after Muslim guerrillas threatened to attack the pilgrimage to Amarnath cave, where a 12-foot (four-metre) tall, icy stalagmite is believed to be a manifestation of Shiva's penis. About twice as many troops lined the route to the cave as pilgrims, police officials said. There are around 50,000 troops posted along the route as well as at vantage points in the hills, said a policeman. So far, 25,000 pilgrims have made the arduous 50-kilometre trek to the cave 3,888 metres (12,750 feet) up in the Himalayas, state tourism officials estimate. Every day about 5,000 pilgrims join the procession. A 60-year-old Hindu holy man and a nine-month-old body died of exposure at about 12,500 feet (3,800 metres), close to the mouth of the cave, police said. Some pilgrims returning from the cave complained that the camping facilities have inadequate for the numbers of devotees. The "yatra," or pilgrimage, opens officials Monday when the relics leave Srinagar at the head of the main procession. Until their departure from Srinagar, the maces will remain in a 400-year-old temple on the "seat of Solomon," a hill overlooking the lake city of Srinagar. Troops posted at 50-foot (15-metre) intervals guard the route to the top. Priests in saffron robes made offerings of fruit and flowers to the relics Sunday morning. To the blare of trumpets and the wail of conches, ritual prayers were recited and a pennant was hoisted over the temple. Mahant Ependra Giri, custodian of the maces, said the Amarnath cave is one of the holiest sites of Hinduism. The maces are venerated because an ancient legend says they were handed down by the sage who discovered the cave after a mysterious revelation. "The cave has been known to scriptures since antiquity," Giri, 41, told Reuters. "But its location was lost, and it was only rediscovered about 500 years ago." Giri, head of the monastery which has custody of the maces, said a Muslim shepherd stumbled on the cave. "Until today, a quarter share of the offerings made by pilgrims to the cave is given to the shepherd's descendants," he said. Hindu pilgrims, undeterred by threats from the Harkat-ul-Ansar militant group, were visiting the cave in large numbers, Giri added. "I expect the figure this year will be at least 70,000," he said, estimating last year's number at 42,000. Tourism Department officials confirmed the estimates. "In the first three days alone, over 25,000 pilgrims set out for the cave," an official said. Meanwhile, an Indian soldier and three Muslim rebels died in an overnight ambush of an army camp, as track troops intensified a hunt for five Westerners abducted last month by Kashmiri guerrillas here, officials said Sunday. Giving details of Saturday's attack, senior officials said two soldiers and three Muslim rebels were also injured in the ambush in Guadana, 30 kilometres from the southern Kashmir town of Doda.

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Hiroshima's lingering warning

SUNDAY MARKED the 50th anniversary of the use of a nuclear weapon against people. The bomb that the U.S. dropped in Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945 was aimed as much as at bludgeoning of war-time Japan as at using the Japanese city and its people as the testing ground and guinea pigs for the world's first nuclear attack as documents suggest.

Regardless of the reasons, the people of Hiroshima as well as Nagasaki, the second Japanese city that was "nuked" two days later, paid dearly with their lives for the designs of a nuclear power if only to demonstrate for the world the barbaric dimensions of the atomic bomb. But beyond that and more important, however, was that the attacks were the gravest warning to the world against the acceptability of the use of nuclear weapons.

The Geneva Conventions of 1948 and two additional protocols adopted in the late seventies gave the strongest expression to the total rejection of the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms, and categorised their use as crimes against humanity. This explains the reluctance of several nuclear powers to become parties to the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions as the major nuclear nations continue to build up their nuclear arsenals.

Obviously, the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have not dawned on the big and mighty, and it would seem that we could do little to dissuade them. But the situation gets graver when we look around us and see smaller countries busy trying to join the league of nuclear powers unabated by the decision to extend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The dark experience of Japan with the deployment of nuclear bombs has yet to catch the imagination of the international community. Instead of inspiring nations to forsake such dreadful weapons, countries of all sizes continue on the path of acquiring or possessing them.

For us in Jordan, nuclear activities in Israel continue to be a major source of concern since anything going wrong in the Israeli plant at Dimona or elsewhere could have a devastating effect on our people. Indeed, the Jordanian-Israeli agreement to work towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East is the key avenue through which Jordan would continue to seek to allay the concern of all in the region over Israel's nuclear programme.

In the meantime, however, we cannot but remember the hundreds of thousands of Japanese victims of the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We join the Japanese people on the sad occasion of the anniversary of the attacks in efforts to consolidate the international will and determination to eliminate nuclear threats to human life.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour said Sunday that human rights violations are on the increase in the self-rule areas under control by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the Palestinian people should stand firm in the face of such violations and refuse to see their long struggle for independence and freedom resulting in oppression. Yasser Za'atreh said that a report by the London-based Amnesty International released in May speaks of the secret trials of opponents to the PNA rule and repressive measures against opposition groups. He said that the repressive measures and the human rights violations which have been conducted by the PNA under pressure from the Israeli authorities included the closure of opposition newspapers, and arrest of journalists among other practices. The writer said that another Amnesty International report issued last month speaks of imprisonment without trial of opposition leaders and journalists who are treated inhumanely with their basic human rights violated. Furthermore, said the writer, a report by Committee for the Defence of Mosques in Palestine speaks of assaults and attacks against imams in the mosques and the worshippers. The writer said the Palestinians have struggled for so long against occupation not for the sake of reaching a stage in which they are treated in a manner no better than that of the occupation forces.

AL RA'I Arabic daily said Sunday that the time has come for the Arabs to transcend the situation that has persisted since the Gulf crisis because it said it is unreasonable to succumb to American desires with regard to Iraq and it is unacceptable to see the Iraqi people suffering endlessly. The paper said the Arabs ought to end their boycott of Iraq and refuse to remain totally submissive to Washington's carrot and the stick policy. The paper referred to an interview by His Majesty King Hussein with the Qatari news agency in the past week in which he called on the Arabs to consider the situation seriously and work towards ending the ordeal of the Iraqi people. He said that the King was clear in his demand that the Iraqi people should be able to exercise their natural right of living in peace and security free from further sufferings and that a dialogue should be opened to help reach this stage. It was natural to bear the King issuing this call to the Arab Nation at a time when Jordan is involved in preparing for the economic summit in Amman which, among other purposes, aims at regrouping the Arab countries and reestablishing solidarity among Arabs, said the paper. The paper called for inter-Arab cooperation not only in order to cater to the needs of the new stage in the peace era but also for the sake of safeguarding the national interests of the Arab World.

Human Rights file

Turkey moves to appease Europe

THE TURKISH parliament recently adopted a number of constitutional amendments aimed at bringing Turkey's political norms and human rights record closer to those of Europe. The highlights of these changes included lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, permitting the politicisation of professional unions and syndicates and allowing state employees and functionaries to form an association of their own to protect and promote their interests. These changes are significant in content and implications, since Ankara's Western neighbours insist on their introduction to pave the way for an eventual integration of Turkey into Europe. What cannot be understood, though, is another amendment in the constitution that accords prisoners the right to vote.

We in Jordan certainly do not have to copy the changes introduced to the Turkish constitution. Turkey is vying to become a member of a club of nations which is still "alien" to the Middle East or the Arab and Muslim Worlds in many ways. We in this part of the world are still trying to create new social, economic and political climates that would make possible the application of the norms of the Western civilisation in matters touching on human rights and democracy. Turkey offers a prime example of the ebbs and flows in the application of pluralistic democracy in an Islamic milieu. Its unique geographic place between Europe and the Near East makes it an ideal place for experimenting with ways and means to bridge the gap between the Western and Middle Eastern civilisations. In this sense, Turkey could serve as a model for its Islamic neighbours who are in the midst of a dynamic process of modernisation.

But before we can ever attempt to appreciate the new amendments in the Turkish constitution, we should make a short stop and also appreciate the conditions that made the introduction of the original provisions necessary in the eyes of the military regime that assumed power in 1981. It was the government of General Kenan Evren that forbade trade and professional associations from engaging in political activities after the country fell into a quagmire of

terror and counter terror. At the time, priority was for maintaining stability and security. Once the country was able to catch its breath and reestablish normalcy, the military government gave way to civilian rule and the reintroduction of democracy.

Still, we can debate the major constitutional changes that were introduced in Turkey and see how they may relate to us. The politicisation of trade and professional associations in particular has mushroomed of late into a major controversy with many of us calling on lawyers, doctors and engineers to stick to their domain of concern instead of concentrating on political considerations that appear to fall outside the purview of their by-laws and objectives. There is no doubt that professional associations are established in the first place to advance the cause of their respective professions. This purpose should continue to be the primary goal. But people of all walks of life are also political animals who cannot separate their daily lives and trades from political issues whether domestic or external. The big question that remains is whether associations can succeed in reconciling the requirements of their primary objectives with their involvement in political issues. In retrospect, the answer cannot be but relative as it depends on the ability to carry out one ordinary function without prejudice to the primary objective.

The controversy over the legitimate functions of professional associations arose not because unions profess one political opinion or another but because it was established that their functions have become lopsided with their basic goals overtaken by secondary aims. Turkey's way of resolving this issue remains interesting since it fluctuated between one position and the other over the years.

The even more interesting amendment introduced to the Turkish constitution is granting civil servants the right to form a union of their own. The Turkish amendment did not go, though, as far as according state employees the right to strike. Civil servants unions in Turkey would, therefore, confine their mandate to the promotion and protection of

their interests and welfare. There can be nothing wrong in this shift in policy as far as I can see. As long as state employees' association aims to advance their cause and protect them from arbitrary practices and policies, it would be sensible to allow the establishment of a specific organisation geared to cater to their peculiar needs. The new Turkish provision on this issue makes clear that the right to form a civil servants' association does not mean the right to form a strike over grievances. The outlawing of strikes appears just and sound. No state can afford to interrupt the usual operations of government on working days. The health, security and stability of the public are so closely dependent on the full and normal functioning of state activities that no other "right" may be allowed to interfere with it or supercede it. This has been the logic of all nations across the board. This aspect of Turkish experience is relevant to our discussions on the "right" of teachers to form their own "club." We have opted not to allow our educators to establish their own union on the grounds that they are state employees and their duties are so fundamental and important that nothing should be permitted to disrupt them. On balance, though, as long as teachers are denied the power to go on a strike to press a certain point or another, I do not see any real and legitimate reasons to deny them the choice of forming their own association or not.

Jordan is part of the region and also a part of the international community. We must continue to learn from the experiences of others and offer our own experiences to them. We are not an island unaffected by what goes around us. The Turkish experiments in widening the democratisation process is certainly one that we can examine and profit from. The importance of Turkey to us lies in many factors, among which is the common religion and the sharing of many traditions. Still, we have our own peculiar conditions that would require the application of our own ways, provided that the basic norms that have become part of the common international law are observed and respected.

Laying the ground for arms control pacts

By Jane Hunter

ALL BUT unnoticed, the multilateral arms control talks established by the 1991 Middle East peace talks in Madrid have taken on a robust life of their own. While the talks have yielded only minor tangible results, participants believed they are laying the groundwork for arms control pacts that could be struck after Israel concludes peace talks with its adversaries, a U.S. official familiar with the talks said.

As envisaged at Madrid, the Arms Control and Regional Security (ACRS) talks bring together representatives of Israel and most of the Arab states from the Middle East and North Africa, the peace process sponsors, Russia and the U.S., as well as Asian and European governments and international organisations. Syria and Lebanon have boycotted the ACRS sessions since they began in January 1992, as they have shunned the other working groups established at Madrid (on water, refugees, the environment and economic developments).

Initially, the Palestinians were excluded, on the grounds that they did not have a state with a military infrastructure. But since May 1993, the Palestinians have been welcomed at the ACRS session, which, the U.S. official told MEI, count "socialisation" and the development of a knowledgeable coterie of individuals among their achievements. "It is a very unique process," he said.

Participants have taken turns hosting the ACRS talks. The most recent session was held in Helsinki in late May and early June. Before that there were meetings in the U.S., Russia, Egypt, Tunisia, Qatar and Turkey. A plenary is planned for late summer. A year and a half ago, participants from various participating countries' foreign and defence ministries, rebelling against an exhausting schedule of plenary and working-group meetings, restructured the talks into two sections: an "operational basket" and a "conceptual basket." Plenaries, held twice a year, set the agenda for both "baskets."

The operational ACRS talks have not come anywhere close to such existential matters as the region's security of conventional and unconventional weapons. The sessions have been devoted to "confidence building" topics and their most visible product to date is a communications network that went into operation in March. Until a Middle Eastern site can be agreed on, the network is temporarily based in The Hague, where it uses facilities

of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In a meeting in Jordan last October, the parties finalised a proposal for a regional conflict prevention and security centre that is seen as interacting with world and regional arms control agencies.

Participants in the operational sessions have discussed sharing information on routine military activities and exchanging the information on routine military activities and changing the curricula vitae of senior military officials. There have also been discussions about avoiding maritime incidents and cooperation in maritime search and rescue operations.

Focus on confidence building

The decision to focus on confidence building came after months of wrangling. Arab governments initially demanded that the talks focus on Israel's nuclear arsenal. But they ultimately fell in line with the agenda of Moscow and Washington — and Israel's adamant preference for confidence building. A compromise developed at the September 1992 ACRS session in Moscow forged an

The conceptual ACRS sessions have imbibed a great deal of education about the nuts and bolts of arms control negotiations and verification processes, which, all the parties agree, will be vital part of a Middle East arms accord.

agenda that included both the step-by-step confidence measures and an effort to define the ultimate goal: a verifiable agreement on a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. All ACRS decisions, including agendas for future meetings, are made by consensus. It is in the "conceptual basket" that the details of a future regional arms control regime are discussed. But they are only discussed abstractly — to determine if they might be applicable to the region. Not surprisingly, the dynamics of this abstract dialogue parallel those at play this spring in the negotiations to renew the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Arab states, led by Egypt, strongly resisted the indefinite extension of the NPT (which was sought by the U.S. and ultimately achieved) without a resolution of Israel's status as an undeclared nuclear power and a non-signatory of the treaty. The Arab objective was to force Israel to commit itself to open for inspection, and ultimately relinquish, its nuclear arsenal, a process that would be accom-

plished by Israeli accession to the NPT.

In a paper detailing Israel's position on the issue in the ACRS talks, Eytan Bentsur, a senior deputy director of the foreign affairs ministry, argues delicately that Israel is "the one state in the Middle East that is not a member of military or political coalitions in the region" and "this reality has to be taken into account and should be reflected in future arms control arrangements." As it did during the NPT negotiations, Israel also insists that it will not relinquish its "deterrent" to join a regional zone free of weapons of mass destruction until the nations of that zone have reached a comprehensive peace agreement.

All of the parties have concurred on the conceptual desirability of a weapons-free zone, the official told MEI. But the problem is delineating its boundaries. Israel is known to want to include all its potential enemies, the most notable of which — Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Libya — are not involved in the ACRS process. An Israeli-Syrian peace agreement is likely to put "a lot of momentum" into sur-

place is threatened each time another Arab state reconciles with Israel. More concretely, in this is official's view, Egypt sees Jordan's peace with Israel as a slice of the U.S. foreign aid pie — just as budget cuts and the isolationism of the Republican-dominated Congress are gobbling up that pie. In an earlier interview with MEI an Egyptian official insisted that Egypt was not in the least worried about its post-peace status.

Nuts and bolts of arms control

The conceptual ACRS sessions have imbibed a great deal of education about the nuts and bolts of arms control negotiations and verification processes, which, all the parties agree, will be vital part of a Middle East arms accord. Lecturers have detailed the experiences of Washington and Moscow over the years, as they sought to reduce the risk of nuclear war and then to reduce nuclear and conventional arms. During the May 1992 session, held in Washington, participants toured the U.S. location of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre set up by the U.S. and USSR during the cold war to exchange information about nuclear activities. They also toured the State Department's agency that handles inspections to verify arms agreements between Washington and Moscow.

The ACRS parties also talk, albeit abstractly, about their own weapons. The chief concern here is weapons of mass destruction — Israel's nuclear arsenal and the chemical and biological weapons programmes developed by some Arab states in response. The Arab governments are "not all of one mind" on chemical weapons, the official told MEI, noting that not all of them have signed the treaty limiting chemical weapons. (Some have withheld their signatures to demand concessions on Israel's nuclear programme).

Attention is also given to conventional arms, for which the region has an insatiable appetite. When the talks began, the focus was on "supplier restraint." But, according to the official familiar with the ACRS talks, this effort foundered when the Bush administration — the principal advocate of restraint. Despite its own multi-billion dollar sales to the region in the aftermath of the war against Iraq — concluded a sale of F-16 aircraft to Taiwan, that upset China, which supplies missiles and other weapons systems to several regional governments, according to the official.

Middle East International

Sri Lanka military faces crisis

By Rohan Gunasekera
Renter

COLOMBO — Despite a stunning victory in beating back a Tamil Tiger raid last week, Sri Lanka's military is in crisis, plagued by poor leadership, battlefield blunders and "inadequate" training, defence officials say.

The setbacks suffered by the armed forces are due more to military incompetence than the brilliance of the Tigers, however good in battle they are," a senior military officer said.

"We must get rid of the passengers and yes men in the military," he told Reuters this week. "If we continue like this we're heading for disaster."

Some officers directing the war either did not have combat experience or were noted for battlefield failures, he added.

The military won a huge victory on Friday when it beat off a ferocious raid by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas in northeastern Welioya, killing more than 300 rebels for the loss of just two soldiers.

The Tigers captured a large amount of arms and ammunition when they overran the same base more than a year ago.

Friday's victory was an exception to the string of disasters the military has suffered at the hands of the Tigers, who have overrun several bases in recent years and captured or destroyed patrol boats, aircraft and battle tanks.

Experienced officers were appalled by the disregard for the rules of warfare military commanders have shown in their eagerness to satisfy their political masters.

"The military campaign has been marked by indecisiveness and confusion," an army field commander told Reuters.

"Operations are hastily planned to impossible timetables. Officers who dare to tell politicians the truth are victimised."

Officers said they were shocked by rampant corruption and the needless loss of life and enormous expenditure which occurred in ill-planned offensives meant to meet short-term political goals rather than military objectives.

An example, they said, was last month's offensive in which troops advanced to within six km of the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, only to withdraw when a Tiger counter-attack showed they could not hold captured ground.

"The offensive failed as it was planned with indecent haste, was not realistic and was over-ambitious given the military's resource con-

straints," the field commander said.

An army general who said the operation could not be carried out because of logistical and manpower problems and "inadequate" training was "embellished" from command and replaced by another who agreed to do the job, defence officials said.

The offensive was meant to divert public attention from the July 15 deadline President Chandrika Kumaratunga had set to abolish the powerful executive presidency, whose powers she alleges were abused by her predecessors, they said.

"Soldiers are confused and morale was at rock bottom when we withdrew from captured areas. They are asking what's going on and officers cannot answer them," the field commander said.

But military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe denied the army had withdrawn or that morale was low.

"There's no case of withdrawing and not withdrawing," he told Reuters. "We're dominating the area. Morale is absolutely high because troop morale is much higher when they know we're poised for offensive operations."

He was quoted by the Island newspaper on Wednesday as saying the task was not easy.

"We are facing a barbaric, ruthless, brutal and sadistic terrorist movement," he was quoted as saying.

The war against the Tigers, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east, remains locked in a stalemate despite the increase in technological intensity and some 50,000 deaths since 1983.

The army's strength has risen to 100,000 from just 12,000 in 1983 while the Tigers have grown from a few dozen rebels to some 15,000 fighters with their own makeshift navy, nascent air arm and a fearsome reputation for kamikaze attacks.

The rebel strategy of classic protracted war, wearing down and demoralising the military through hit-and-run tactics and sudden, massed assaults, has had its desired effect, analysts say. The army has taken the unprecedented step of lowering physical and educational standards to get recruits, and even gave amnesty to deserters to fill its depleted ranks.

By Mort
The Associ

MARSEILLE war in Algeria Paris has the ancient France that has been against racial explosion. I'm not sure if stays on it keeps other people over in other Salah Bariki. born community us hope in last. Elsewhere in Europe, la Muslim immigrants conservative vote to the right. Racial violence flare into violence. In Marseille, person in six is many French from Algeria 40 years. temous peace. Police squads North African search of clues. Paris subway has unlike in Lyon cities, few voices test.

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By Jose R
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Jordan's ambassador to Israel Marwan Mueen conveyed to Jordan government Jordan settlers' actions in Jerusalem.

The government man said the Jordan government reaffirms its duty of the Israeli au-

Marseille keeps racial peace, offering hope to France

By Mort Rosenblum
The Associated Press

MARSEILLE — Neither war in Algeria nor terror in Paris has moved Marseille, the ancient cornerstone of France that today stands as a bastion against widely feared racial explosions.

"I'm not sure why, but the lid stays on here, and that keeps other pots from boiling over in other places," said Salah Bariki, an Algerian-born community leader. "Let us hope it lasts."

Elsewhere in France, and in Europe, large mixes of Muslim immigrants and of conservative natives who vote to the right have proved volatile. Racial tensions often flare into violence.

In Marseille, where one person in six is Muslim and many French are still bitter from bawling to abandon Algeria 40 years ago, there is tenuous peace.

Police squads banged on North Africans' doors in search of clues to the July 25 Paris subway bombing. But, unlike in Lyon and other cities, few voices rose in protest.

In December, gendarmes stormed a jumbo jet at Marseille airport, killing four Algerian hijackers, but hardly a ripple was felt in town. No one took to the streets

when thugs of the right-wing National Front fatally shot a Comoran immigrant, black and Muslim, who jeered when they put up posters of party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen for the May presidential election.

Jocelyne Cesari, a French sociologist and expert on Third World immigrants, calls Marseille a likely prototype for uneasy coexistence among separate communities as a new Europe changes colour.

"At first, Le Pen wanted to build a stronghold in Marseille, where some sections voted over 30 per cent for his National Front," she said. "But he gave up in disgust and focused on fringe areas."

Marseille was the port from which France ruled its colonies. Less than two generations later, it is a crippled hulk, jobless and crime-ridden, mired in the backwash of empire.

Just across the Mediterranean from Algiers and Tunis, and at the end of a boat ride from former French colonies in black Africa, it is a natural stopping point for people moving north.

In the glory days, one million people lived here, working at vast shipyards and thriving factories. Maritime moguls dwelt in splendour off the downtown canebiere. He-

roin kings ran the French colony. Because of fierce strikes and competition from other ports, Marseille fell on times so hard that even the mob left town. The faded nightlife is deadly dull. Only intrepid tourists stay long.

Now the population is 840,000, including 100,000 Algerians and other Arabs and 50,000 black Africans. More Comorans — 25,000 — live in Marseille than on their destitute islands off South Africa.

The city is divided in two: white French families south from the Canebiere to the sea, Arabs and Africans to the north, up through miles of cheaply built housing projects where police fear to tread.

Once posh townhouses on Napoleon III's grand thoroughfares are subdivided into squalid immigrant flats. Elegant terraced apartments in the heart of Marseille can be had for a song.

Marseille's harbour has welcomed foreign wanderers since the ancient Greeks built an outpost and planted the vines and olive trees that later spread into the surrounding Provence region.

This time, however, new arrivals are resisting the old Marseille melting pot.

Nô far from the old port, good shepherd street is a casbah of Islamic butchers, men sipping mint tea in blue-tiled cafes and Arabic satellite television blaring late into the night.

By the nearby Porte d'Aix, a shiny new McDonald's and fancy government buildings are islands in a North African city of sweets shops, prayer halls, couscous joints and an open-air bazaar.

The street language is Arabic. When French is heard, it is often spoken in heavy African accents.

Feelings run high on both sides of the line but, for all the sparks over the past months and years, it is a powder keg that has not ignited.

"Most Arabs live in denial, refusing to believe anything is wrong, and they get along as best they can," said Mr. Bariki, the community leader who is a member of Marseille Esperance, the mayor's committee to promote racial harmony.

"Maybe it would be better if they organised and worked for better conditions, but they don't," he said. "There are no community groups. The truth is, I don't really represent anybody."

City hall employs 13,000 people and perhaps a half-dozen are Arabs, all in minor posts. The police force is almost all white French, as are officially licensed taxi drivers.

"This is the only city in France where even the street sweepers are white," Mr. Bariki said, with a rueful laugh.

For immigrants, unemployment is about 25 per cent, twice the national average. That leaves petty trading, services, marginal professions and crime.

A small industry thrives in caves beneath apartment buildings in the northern neighbourhoods: Young men work all night to dismantle stolen cars. Purse-snatching and burglary are rampant.

"Perhaps it's just as well," Jean-Marc Matalon, a radio journalist, said with a shrug. "If it weren't for the income from crime, the Marseille pot would probably boil over."

Police officials, fearful of the potential for sudden, serious violence, try to keep temperatures down. Even literally. In summer, they bus youngsters to the beach from northern housing projects.

After the Paris bombing, police teams tried to avoid rough treatment while checking identity papers and using intelligence leads into the inner city.

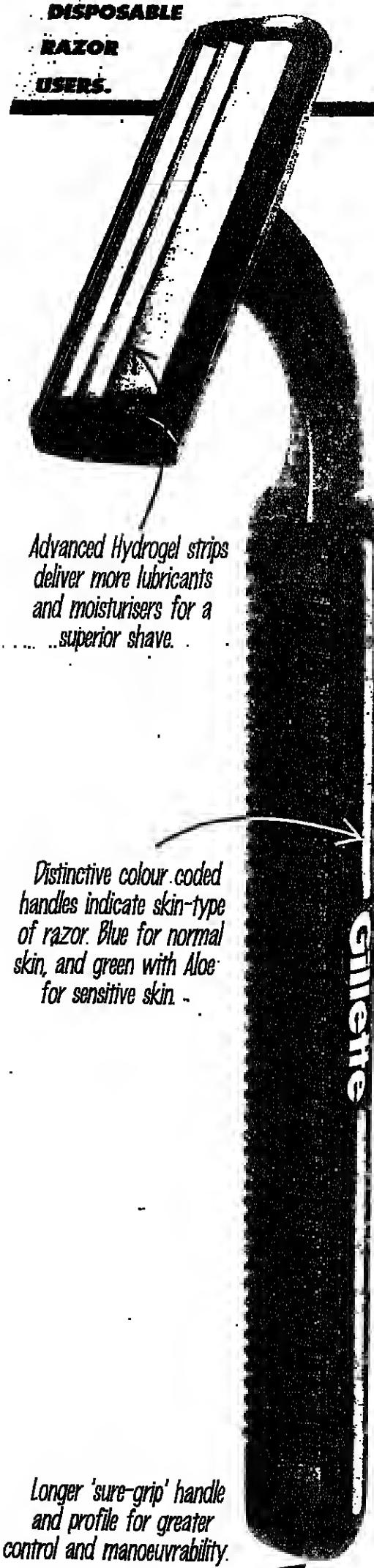
Mr. Cesari, the sociologist, said that most likely, people get along in Marseille because they have defined territories and worked out ways of living within their own cultures without fearing intrusion from others.

She said racism turns murderous in cities and villages where old families panic at strange customs, blaming the outsiders for tough times. Immigrants revolt when they feel powerless and under attack.

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Gillette

Casinos get one roll of the dice closer to approval

By Jose Rosenfeld
and Kim

ISRAEL HAS moved one step closer to legalising casino gambling when the Interministerial Committee on the Establishment of Legalised Casino Gambling appointed a professional committee that will make recommendations on legislation within 60 days.

Last month the cabinet approved in principle the establishment of casinos. Tourism Minister Uzi

Baram, who is spearheading the initiative, sees the establishment of a casino in Eilat as the only way to deal with the competition created by the existing casino in Taba and the proposed casino in Aqaba.

Mr. Baram told the interministerial committee that his ministry had commissioned a public opinion poll which found 60 per cent of the population supports the establishment of a casino, while 37 per cent oppose it. In Eilat, 65 per cent of residents favour a casino

and 21 per cent oppose it.

The professional committee, which will be headed by former income tax commissioner Moshe Gavish, who is now managing director of the Mercantile Discount Bank, was directed to consider the establishment of a gambling oversight body, the location and number of legal casinos and the types of games allowed; the size of gambling halls; limitations on the placement of gambling machines; taxation of

casino revenues; ownership and operation of casinos; licensing requirements; limitations on entry to casinos and advertising; and special law enforcement provisions.

Its members will include representatives of the Finance, Justice, Education, Environment and Tourism ministries, all of whose ministers serve on the interministerial committee.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein suggested that Mifal Hapays

be placed in charge of establishing a casino, but Finance Minister Avraham Shohat opposed the idea. He did agree, however, that the professional committee study the proposal.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced his resignation from the interministerial committee, claiming that in naming a professional committee it was exceeding the authority granted by the government. But Justice Minister David Liba'i maintained that the government had

authorised the committee to recommend legislation.

The Masorti (Conservative) Movement, meanwhile, expressed its deep disappointment, telling Israel Radio that Baram had implied there would be casinos not only in Eilat but also near the Dead Sea and in the centre of the country. Gambling is against both Jewish tradition and the Zionist ideal of a people living by the work of its hands, the movement said.

The Jerusalem Post.

Israel closes

(Continued from page 1)

is our mosque, and we will protect it no matter what."

The confrontation came at a time of escalating tension between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jewish settlers over government plans to expand Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

"These extremists want to kill the peace process," said Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem who went to the Dome of the Rock to observe the confrontation.

"If people want to come here as tourists and behave themselves, then that is okay. But if they want to come to score a political point, this is totally rejected," Mr. Husseini added.

Meanwhile, Israeli negotiators said on Sunday they were close to agreement on expanding self-rule for Palestinians but PLO officials were sceptical that any progress had been made in the drawn-out talks.

These differing interpretations of progress were made as PLO Chief Yasser Arafat and Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres prepared to meet in order to force the pace of the talks.

"I think we can reach an agreement by the end of this month ... Palestinians want elections this year, and for this to happen, we have to conclude the accord this month," one Israeli official close to the negotiations said, insisting on anonymity.

The two sides are trying to agree on arrangements to expand Palestinian self-rule into the West Bank. Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority

took over Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, the first part of self-rule, last year.

The Israeli official said both sides had already agreed on the transfer of 40 civilian powers in the West Bank by the end of the year and said he expected Israeli troops would start redeploying away from Arab population centres by November.

But PLO negotiations disagreed.

"Judging from the negotiations, I doubt we can solve the main disputed issues by the end of this month," said one Palestinian negotiator.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres, who share a Nobel peace prize with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a framework 1993 peace agreement, last met in Egypt three weeks ago. But Palestine Liberation Organisation officials say in the last week they have bypassed official negotiating teams to talk by telephone.

They are due to meet in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabu on Monday for talks on the issues that deeply divide them — security arrangements in the West Bank, the status of the town of Hebron, water and other issues.

Last week, Israeli and PLO negotiators talked for six days in the Israeli resort of Eilat without any apparent progress. They are also due to resume those talks on Monday.

But Khaled Salam, an Arafat advisor, said the talks needed high-level participation from both sides to break the deadlock.

"It has become a necessity now for direct involvement of the Israeli and Palestinian political leadership to narrow

existing gaps on hard core disputed issues," he said.

PLO negotiators said they believed the slow down in peace talks was partly due to external pressures on the Israeli government, such as the settler protests.

Israelis and Palestinians are now a year behind the original schedule for the expansion of self-rule into the West Bank, and more recently missed two self-imposed deadlines.

Settlers to renew 'hill war'

Also on Sunday, settler leaders announced that the "hill war" against Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank will continue.

"We have decided to resume the struggle," said Uri Ariel, head of the council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza.

"We remain open to a dialogue with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but the struggle will continue unless the government halts the negotiations with the PLO."

Mr. Ariel said Mr. Rabin had failed to satisfy the settlers' demands during a meeting Friday. A second meeting between the prime minister and representatives of the 130,000 West Bank colonists is scheduled for Tuesday.

The settlers declared a truce Thursday after a call from President Ezer Weizman following five days of trouble with troops who evicted hundreds of Israelis from three West Bank hills a total of five times.

The operations are part of a wider campaign launched in June to block the spread of self-rule on territory which

settlers believe God gave to the Jews. Settlers claim PLO-ruled enclaves will become safe havens from which extremists will attack Jews.

Mr. Rabin has warned that the full force of the law will be used to restore order and criticised the campaign for tying down security forces and reducing training.

Israel could release 1500 prisoners

An Israeli commission is to meet to discuss the possible release of 1,500 Palestinian prisoners as part of talks with the PLO on the extension of self-rule in the West Bank, an Israeli official has said Saturday.

Israel is considering the release of the prisoners in coming months — some of them after the signing of an autonomy accord with the PLO and others before Palestinian self-rule elections in the West Bank, the official said.

The inter-ministerial commission responsible for the release of the prisoners meets Tuesday in occupied Jerusalem.

After the commission's previous meeting, Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced on June 29 that hundreds of Palestinian prisoners would be released with the signing of an accord with the PLO.

Israel currently holds 6,500 Palestinian prisoners after releasing 5,000 since the signing of an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May 1994. But it has since arrested 1,000 more Palestinians.

prevent a confrontation between Muslims and Jewish extremists.

Israel's supreme court last week ruled in favour of the group, granting its members the right to tour, but not to pray, in the area atop the mount that includes the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques.

It said the decision violated Israel's 1993 peace pact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and U.N. resolutions that urge against any action to change the status of institutions in Jerusalem.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa also said his government was concerned about the court decision.

King entrusts

(Continued from page 1)

prosperity.

Therefore, I entrust Your Majesty with the establishment and chairmanship of the National Task Force for Children, comprised of the finest concerned individuals and professionals in the field of children's affairs from both the public and private sectors. I hereby maintain the necessity for the coordination of all endeavours and institutional undertakings through this task force and emphasise our need for a clear vision, realistic objectives, and comprehensive awareness of the long-term advantages of scientific study to cultivate a free, informed, open-minded

and tolerant new generation, capable of rising in the face of future challenges.

I am confident that Jordan is capable of realising more of its aspirations and attaining further accomplishments through the labours of its fine people working to achieve the noble objectives of the International Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the fruits of which, we hope, will benefit all children in Jordan.

I wish you much success and hope that this task force becomes a venerable milestone in Jordan's achievements, which are built on a tradition of love, cooperation, spiritual unity, freedom and justice.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

50 years

Continued from page 1

Most of the elderly hibakusha who come to the Hiroshima peace park every day lost their entire families and have not been able to adjust themselves to normal life. Many bear vivid marks — mangled fingers, twisted limbs and other deformations that could not be completely corrected with surgery.

Many are undergoing daily treatment, but are unlikely to recover fully. But they are determined to continue to press the case against atomic weapons around the world and to make their voices heard on every possible occasion, the last this week, when thousands marched through the streets of Hiroshima to mark the 50th anniversary of the attack.

One of the most striking things about Hiroshima, particularly after taking a stroll through the museum, is how the city defied all

predictions and sprang back to its feet in a few years.

Taiko Nanyama, a boy of 10 who was away from Hiroshima at the time of the attack but returned to his hometown three weeks later to join the restoration work that started in days after the blast, said he believed that the "sheer Japanese will to live" was the key to Hiroshima's recovery.

"We the Japanese always had and still have a strong instinct for survival," said Mr. Nanyama, sitting in the rooftop bar of a landmark hotel in Hiroshima. "The people of Hiroshima cared little for warnings of radiation simply because they had already lost everything. They plunged to reconstruction with whatever little they had."

"The result is," added the man with an expansive gesture at the glittering lights and the impressive industrial skyline of Hiroshima, "is what you see around us today. We simply don't give up."

Arab League

(Continued from page 1)

Arab countries would also promise to combat terrorism and refrain from giving help or sanctuary to extremist groups in their territories.

Arab diplomats said the document was largely symbolic and was not expected to end fears and doubts resulting from the Gulf war. Arab governments are already

bound by the league's 1945 charter and a joint defence pact that prohibits the use of force among Arab countries.

Iraq and Kuwait, which still refuses to restore ties with Arab states that supported Baghdad in the Gulf war, were among countries urging the charter.

Jordan demands

(Continued from page 1)

Mount Faithfuls should prompt a firm and immediate action by the Israeli government so that their actions will not have negative effects on the peace process," Mr. Kabarti said.

Jordan's ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher Sunday conveyed to the Israeli government Jordan's position, which rejects the Israeli settlers' actions in occupied Jerusalem.

The government spokesman said the Jordanian government reaffirms that is the duty of the Israeli authorities

to prevent any abuse of the Al Aqsa Mosque in implementation of Clause Two of Article Nine of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, adding that Israel has the responsibility to safeguard the peace process through which the "different parties are working to attain a just, comprehensive and lasting peace that will preserve the right of all parties without any discrimination."

"The Jordanian government asserts its firm stand with regard to Arab Jerusalem and its holy sites as occupied Arab territory, according to all U.N. resolutions," added the spokesman.

He said that the government has instructed the ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to follow up on this issue through its officials in Jerusalem and to take all measures that would safeguard the Al Aqsa Mosque and ensure its continued safety and sanctity.

The Arab League also issued a statement condemning the ruling by Israel's supreme court. It said such a move could only increase tensions, according to Reuters news agency report.

The league statement on the Temple Mount, came on a day when Israeli police closed the area to visitors to

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Draft law seeks to boost accessibility, trading at AFM

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In its bid to strengthen the investment climate in Jordan ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, the government is working on a draft law aimed at facilitating share and stock trading and increasing accessibility to the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

The draft law, which is being prepared by the AFM, will be presented "hopefully" before Parliament ends its current extraordinary session, deputy director general of the AFM, Jalil Tariff said.

Parliament is about to discuss new income, sales tax and investment laws, in addition to the AFM draft law.

"There should be transparency in economic policies," director general of the AFM, Dr. Umayya Toukan said. "Legislation should only contain guidelines with bylaws that can be amended without having to change the guidelines."

While personal and corporate income taxes will be cut, sales tax will be increased from its current seven percent to 10, Dr. Toukan explained that this way, the private sector would be able to save more money that can be used to reinvest, while the government's main revenue will come from the sales tax hikes.

As for the investment law, the new law will equate

Jordanian and non-Jordanian investors, and will simplify government bureaucracy. Foreign investors will be able to compete with local investors. "This competition will improve the quality of goods and services, so they meet international standards," Dr. Toukan said.

Regarding the AFM draft law, Mr. Jalil explained that one main feature of this law is allowing dual listing of companies. This means that Jordanian companies now will be listed on international financial markets, and foreign companies will be listed on the Jordanian financial market. By allowing that, international investors will be able to buy up to only 49 percent of any Jordanian com-

pany shares, thereby increasing the investment drive in the local market and facilitating the procedure for Jordanian companies to raise funds from abroad.

The draft law will also oblige Jordanian companies to provide the stock exchange with their quarterly, semi-annual and yearly reports of their financial status and any changes that will affect their share prices, explained Mr. Tariff.

Mr. Tariff said that the draft law would call for the establishment of a central depository and clearing agency to facilitate trading, and settlement between brokers and their clients, replacing the previous system of separate registration at each individual

listed company.

The draft law will also encourage small investors to invest their savings through mutual funds. The funds, administered by experienced managers, will invest on behalf of investors who have limited knowledge in the market, explained Mr. Tariff. It will be inspected by the AFM.

Another main issue referred to in the draft law is the brokerage system. The new law will allow the AFM the authority to organize the brokerage system by increasing their independence and capital.

"This will allow for the establishment of a regulatory body or security and exchange commission," Mr.

Tariff said. This commission will control and regulate the capital in the market including the stock exchange, while at the same time the private sector will have a say in managing the stock exchange.

"The draft law will strengthen the role of brokerage system in order to have this separation," Mr. Tariff explained.

"It is important to show that the Jordanian market is accessible to foreign investors," he said.

"We have to create the right economic climate for foreign investors through freedom of movement of labour, capital and goods, open market reforms, and transparency of laws," Dr. Toukan said.

One way to attract investors, Dr. Toukan said, is to wean away the economy from government control to the private sector. But in order to make the transition to the private sector, the government has to adopt new trade "philosophies," he said.

"Government should not have any 'business' with business," Dr. Toukan said.

He also said the private sector should work hard to change its "attitude" if it expects to succeed. "For the past 45 years, the private sector was simply implementing government projects," he said. "Now it has to find new ways and mechanisms to finance projects, and invest."

The private sector will also

be expected to take a leading role in the operation and management of future projects. In the MENA summit alone, a list of 27 projects amounting to \$3.5 billion have been prepared. In addition, over 100 projects of small and medium industries have also been prepared and will most probably be implemented by the private sector. Projects in the Jordan Rift Valley will also be submitted in the summit.

Dr. Toukan said he believed the aims of the MENA summit are consistent with Jordan's priority, which is to alleviate poverty and unemployment, increase incomes, and create the right atmosphere for foreign investors.

World Bank warns of impending global water scarcity

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world will spend \$600 billion over the next decade to augment water reserves, as demand spurred by urbanisation and agriculture outstrips available supplies, according to the World Bank.

"We are warning the world that there is a huge problem looming out there," said Ismail Serageldin, a bank vice president. "Unless current trends are reversed, we will have a worsening water crisis around the planet."

Water is abundant in many parts of the world, but some 80 countries are experiencing water shortages serious enough to threaten agriculture, said a World Bank report, released Saturday. It was prepared for an international symposium in Stockholm starting Aug. 13.

With the world's population expected to expand from today's 5.6 billion to eight billion in 2025, demands on

water for households, industries and irrigation will grow rapidly.

Meanwhile, the supply is increasingly being contaminated by pollution from industry, domestic waste and farm chemicals, the paper said.

"The water problem in most countries stems not from a shortage of water but rather from its inefficient and unsustainable use," Mr. Serageldin said. "We need to change our attitudes toward

water and stop wasting it the way we do."

Most countries with limited water are in the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where populations are growing fastest. Other regions facing water scarcity are northern China, southern India, western South America and large parts of Pakistan and Mexico.

Global demand for water, which has historically in-

creased at a rate of 2.3 percent a year doubling every 21 years, must be slowed, the paper said.

It recommended that the problem be addressed by establishing associations of river and lake users to manage water, and by selling water at prices high enough to encourage conservation.

"The experts all agree on the need to do something fast," Mr. Serageldin said. "The main problem is the

lack of political will to carry out these recommendations."

Irrigation consumes 90 percent of all water used in poor countries, the report said, but up to half of that is wasted and never reaches plants. An average 40 percent of water leaving treatment plants in Third World cities is lost.

Globally, the World Bank estimated that \$600 billion will be invested in projects to increase clean water output in the next 10 years.

Most will be raised within user countries, but 10 percent of the money will come from abroad, mainly as aid for poor countries. The World Bank will participate with loans of up to \$40 billion.

Vietnam hails new U.S. trade prospects

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's official media trumpeted a new era in trade relations with the United States Sunday, as visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher opened Washington's first embassy in the Vietnamese capital.

"The figures that speak for themselves" said a front-page headline in the English-language Vietnam News.

"As of this month a total of 36 U.S. company licences have been granted... already in the first half of 1995, a total of \$285 million has been invested. As the old proverb states 'the early bird catches the worm.'"

But members of the American business community in Hanoi were taking a cooler view Sunday. Washington lifted its trade embargo against Hanoi only in February last year and U.S. investment still lags behind that of

Vietnam's Asian neighbours.

"American business is still handicapped by the lack of economic normalisation with Vietnam," said Virginia Foote of the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council.

"I think air links and other matters which don't require a political decision will move right along now. But MFN (most favoured nation trading status) and others are the big ones... MFN will probably take a year," Ms. Foote said.

Businessmen who met Mr. Christopher over breakfast Sunday were also nonplussed about the prospects for any rapid change for U.S. firms.

"If all of a sudden 10,000 people get off a plane waving their money, that's not a good thing," said one executive. "You should come, but you've got to be realistic when you come here," he added.

S. American trade bloc seeks deal with EU

ASUNCION (AFP) — Member countries of South America's Southern Common Market (Mercosur) agreed Saturday to open negotiations with the European Union (EU) on creating what would be one of the world's largest free-trade zones.

The presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay — who constitute the Mercosur Council — ordered the group to begin negotiations at a technical level with the European Union on Sept. 14 in Brussels.

Talks will continue in Montevideo on Sept. 29 and throughout the following months with a final agreement expected to be signed between the four South American presidents and their 15 European counterparts around mid-December in Madrid.

President Bill Clinton may be invited to attend the signing ceremony, officials said. The trade agreement would call for a progressive reduction in tariffs by the

year 2001 and to widen cooperation in several areas such as agriculture, industry, investment, transportation, and science and technology.

Mercosur was also to set guidelines for holding talks with the European Union on promoting democracy and human rights in the effort to strengthen political integration between the two groups.

A 24-point declaration by President Juan Wamosy of Paraguay, President Carlos Menem of Argentina, President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil, and President Julio Sanguinetti of Uruguay pledged to expand Mercosur's role in global free trade.

The heads of state "reiterate their political will to increase Mercosur's competitiveness and expand its role in the world... including participation in international agreements and forums dedicated to such aims," they said in a statement.

They also pledged to ratify economic cooperation agreements as early as possible with Chile and Bolivia.

The precise timeframe for both negotiating the free trade deal and putting it in place will be the subject of pending negotiations, a first phase of which is expected to stretch from 1996-2001.

Mercosur, which took in January, groups the four Latin American countries in a free-trade zone of more than 190 million consumers.

The Mercosur-EU alliance would cover a territory of 567 million consumers with trade flow expected to total \$1.4 trillion.

In comparison, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Mexico and Canada creates a market of some 378 million people and generates \$1.6 trillion in trade.

flow expected to total \$1.4 trillion.

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TWO FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT
The first is a 200 square metres, separate ground floor apartment, consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting and dining area, glassed-in veranda, garden, and a garage. The second is a 220 square metre second floor apartment, consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in balcony. Each apartment, has separate central heating, telephone, maid room, large kitchen, and deluxe furniture.
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CAR FOR SALE
94 Toyota Corolla DX, excellent cond., 1800cc, American Specs., dual airbag, all power options, central lock, automatic, A/C, premium stereo, 22k miles, Texas Plate, Not Taxed. Tel. 695815

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



CRACKLE
SNAP BURP

"Next time don't buy the bargain brand."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Hazel Arnold and Mike Arghison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YASID
LUDGI
IKIBIN
URBAUN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHEEL GROIN BELLOW FORGOT
Answer: What the obnoxious motorist was told — WHERE TO GO

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Many restrictive conditions may upset you this morning, if you are not objective, and then tonight solve the problems quickly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Steer clear of friends who are restless and want to run away from mutual interests. Tonight your mate can be very helpful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid outside activities as much as you can during daytime today, but tonight is fine for gabbing about town.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Stick to the tried and true during the daytime, but tonight study into something new and fascinating.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Steer clear of a disagreement with a high-strung associate, who is not very conventional and then tonight all works to your favour.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be kind with those who are upset and acting strangely and tonight, an associate gives you fine support on a new assignment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your work load may seem too heavy today, but if you plan your time wisely, you can handle it very well and quickly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Although you want to have a good time today, it is best you handle practical affairs during the daytime and save entertainment for tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do not get into disagreements at home during the daytime and tonight all will be serene there. Be gentle with a family tie who is irate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Much care in motion is necessary today and thereby avoid some kind of accident. Keep poised if associates are in a bad mood during the day.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may be a little confused and could make mistakes where finances and real estate are concerned, but tonight, you think clearly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Although frustrated during the day, take it easy and tonight you gain fine benefits. Avoid pals who pressure you in some way.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson

ACROSS
1 — the coop (escaped)
5 Toy rifle ammo
8 Land beauty to
13 Incite
14 Belfry sound
15 Make fast, nautically
16 A Greenspan
17 Fitzgerald
18 Beyond plump
19 Conspicuous
22 Campaign name of '52
23 Mass of cotton fibers
24 Yam mops
28 Box for practice
30 Small faction
34 Fizzy quaffs
35 Opposition member
37 "La—" (Debussy opus)
38 Optimistically
42 Erstwhile MGM rival
43 Entranceway
44 Kind of goose
45 "Boss" Tweed lampooner
47 Breather
49 Put out
50 Like — of bricks
52 Total number
54 "Thy word is a —" (Bible)
61 Unskilled
62 Growl
63 Central line
65 Martinique peak
66 She: Fr.
67 — Japanese War
68 European
69 Comic Louis
70 List ender

DOWN
1 Monastery figure
2 Canon film
3 Panache
4 Left
5 Reigning beauties
6 Island east of Java
7 Recklessly
8 Like — from the blue
9 Ledger losses
10 Cassini
11 Impetuous
12 Russian veto
14 Furtive glance
20 Greeted uncivilly
21 Planet
24 Utter disdain
25 "Willy — and the Chocolate Factory"
26 Some singers
27 Humph!l
29 Couples
31 M. Zola
32 Chest material
33 River in Ontario
36 Reflexive pronoun
39 Nonmetallic element
40 Nobel physicist
41 Boston Red —
46 Hit lightly
48 Mexican food
51 Instructor's pupil
53 Erato's instrument
54 Rims
55 Once again
56 Cob or stag, e.g.
57 Mere
58 Lessen
59 Way out
60 A Sinatra
64 Musical note

Puzzle solved:

STAY SCRAM SENT
HARE COATY TRIO
OMEN APRIL FOOLS
RAN SLEEP LOSES
TRALEE BOG
END FLOWERET
ASTA AONE ORA
RAINCATS AND DOGS
URN ALIT AMOK
MAYORESS SIC
DEC TREATY
ASIDE SPREE TOO
SPRINGTAIL YORK
TOAT AORTA ANTE
ITSY BAKER KEEL

Peanuts



I'VE DECIDED I'M NOT GOING TO SUMMER CAMP THIS YEAR...


1 THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT...

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT...

ABOUT TEN SECONDS

ANDY CAPP

Mutt'n Jeff



OH, MUTT, A FRIEND OF YOURS PHONED AND HE LEFT THIS MESSAGE FOR YOU!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS!

YEH, I KNOW — I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR FRIEND!

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

CBJ, Israeli officials discuss banking issues

IN TOTAL secrecy, Jordanian and Israeli monetary officials held intensive discussions for the first time at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) last week. CBJ officials refused to give details about the discussions except that routine meetings were held with officials from the Bank of Israel and that the talks covered means to overcome difficulties facing branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories. CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marito led the Jordanian side to the two-day meetings. The Israeli side was represented by a senior Bank of Israel official in addition to a team of experts from both sides (Al Aswad).

AN INFORMED source said that a special ministerial council is currently studying and reviewing the draft trade accord between Jordan and Israel. The source denied that the two countries had reached a final agreement or that a date has been fixed for the signing of the agreement. He said the council was making some amendments to the accord. Asked to confirm that Israel will lower customs tariffs on Jordanian exports by between 25 and 75 per cent while receiving 10 per cent reduction on its (Israel) exports to Jordan, the source said the rates were inaccurate, preliminary and subject to change (Al Aswad).

THE TELECOMUNICATIONS Corporation decided to expand Al Abdali telephone exchange by adding to it 5,000 new lines which are expected to come into use in April 1996. Of the new lines that will be awarded to applicants in chronological order, 25 per cent, or 1,250 lines, will be given to those paying three times the normal charges. The corporation is also studying the possibility of expanding other telephone exchanges in Amman to meet increasing demand (Al Ra'i).

APPROVED BY the Council of Ministers, the annual registration / subscription fees, paid by various industries, to the chamber of industry have been amended as follows: Those with capital of less than JD 100,000 must pay JD 20 whereas those with capital above JD 100,000 but less than JD 200,000 must pay JD 100. Industries with capital between JD 200,000 and JD 500,000 have to pay JD 200 while those whose capital is between JD 500,000 and JD 1 million have to pay JD 300. Other categories are JD 1 million and JD 2 million (JD 500); JD 2 million and JD 5 million (JD 800); JD 5 million and JD 10 million (JD 1,000). Companies with capital over JD 10 million are to pay JD 1,500 in annual fees (Al Ra'i).

INTENSIVE CAMPAIGNS by ministry of supply inspectors during the past seven months have resulted in fining 15,108 merchants throughout the Kingdom (Al Ra'i).

SMALL FARMERS are still declining to buy the tractors provided by the Japanese government through credits from the Agricultural Credit Corporation. Farmers say the price is high and interest adds up to about 42 per cent by the time they repay the loan (Al Dustour).

THE MINISTRY of water and irrigation has formed a specialised working group to lay down practical plans to start implementing developmental agricultural projects on the lands regained from under Israeli occupation. According to Saleh Ishaidat, the minister of water and irrigation, the ministry has started field surveys of the areas, in cooperation with the army, to prepare them for agricultural utilisation (Al Ra'i).

Bankers tell Maxwell trial of nightmare borrowing

LONDON (R) — Robert Maxwell's main bankers said in court last week he forced them to lend money which, for at least one executive, turned into a nightmare debt crisis of the early 1980s.

Robert Brown, testifying at the fraud trial of the late publisher's youngest sons, Kevin and Ian Maxwell, was the corporate banker in charge of the Maxwell accounts at National Westminster (Natwest).

Mr. Brown said he was fined by his bosses and risked being sacked over big, unauthorised debts that were incurred by Robert Maxwell months before he died in 1991 and by Kevin.

In two days of testimony, Mr. Brown gave the jury a rare glimpse into frantic scrambling by lending banks once they discovered in 1991 Maxwell companies were suffering a severe cash crisis.

He told the court he would have "entered early retirement" at one point if Robert and Kevin Maxwell had failed to make a particular loan payment that had been promised to Natwest.

On another deal, he said "certainly I would have been sacked" if he had lost hold of the Maxwell accounts.

Maxwell accounts at Natwest repeatedly exceeded overdraft limits and one Maxwell company forced the bank to lend against its will by issuing dividend cheques for millions of pounds (dollars) for which there were no funds in the accounts.

Mr. Brown said the overdrafts would have made it into the Guinness book of records and that the liquidity crisis in the Maxwell group would have registered eight on the Richter earthquake scale — strong enough to devastate a whole city.

Kevin Maxwell's lawyer provided rare courtroom fireworks when, nearly shouting, he accused Mr. Brown of preparing in advance the quotes he uttered while on the witness stand.

Mr. Brown, a balding man in a grey pinstripe suit, who spent 36 years as a banker, denied the accusation.

He also denied an accusation that he knowingly accepted pension funds as collateral for loans to the Maxwells.

"There was absolutely no reason why I should, at that state in my career, perform what amounted to an illegal or dishonest act," Mr. Brown said.

Enron seeks arbitration in \$2.8b India deal

BOMBAY (R) — A U.S. consortium headed by Enron Corp. said Sunday it has begun arbitration proceedings over the scrapping of a \$2.8 billion power plant, India's biggest foreign investment project.

The Dabhol Power Co. (DPC), linking Enron and U.S. heavyweights General Electric Co. and Bechtel which together are building the plant, said it would seek damages if India's western state of Maharashtra did not stick to its contractual obligations.

While state officials appeared in no mood for compromise, DPC said that "it remains hopeful of reaching a mutually acceptable solution with the government of Maharashtra."

DPC said that it was seeking a declaration that the government perform its contractual obligation or, alternatively, pay damages to DPC.

The state government of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, Thursday unilaterally scrapped the 2,015 megawatt power plant being built by the Enron-led consortium.

BCCI founder buried simply, ignored by rulers

KARACHI (R) — The Pakistani founder of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), Agha Hassan Abedi, was buried Sunday in a simple funeral ceremony ignored by government leaders.

With the exception of a representative from the Sindh province governor's house, no high-ranking official or ruling party leader turned up at the funeral of Abedi, regarded by many Pakistanis as a banking genius and a national hero despite startling revelations about his scandal-ridden brainchild — the BCCI.

Abedi died at a Karachi hospital Saturday at the age of 73 after remaining bed-ridden for years.

Abedi was wanted for trial in the United States and to serve a jail sentence in the United Arab Emirates for his role in the BCCI's 1991 collapse, but was not extradited because of poor health.

Most of about 200 mourners at the funeral were bankers, former BCCI employees, and personal and family friends.

A parliamentary deputy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, Aziz Memon, told Reuters he was at the funeral in his capacity as labour union leader of the state-run United Bank Ltd., the bank Abedi founded in 1959.

"He was a great person. He didn't only establish Pakistan's banking sector but provided employment to thousands of middle class people," Mr. Memon said.

A senior executive of a foreign bank, who asked not to be named, said: "Abedi might have been involved in a controversy but the government shouldn't have let his services to the nation go unrecognised."

Egypt aims to export natural gas to Jordan from year 2000

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is to start exports to Jordan of 280 million cubic metres a day of natural gas over a 15-year period starting in 2000, Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banhi said Sunday.

An agreement in principle will soon be drawn up to meet Jordan's growing needs in the fields of electrical energy and industry, he said, in a statement received by AFP.

Under this accord in effect from 2000 up until 2015, Egypt will export some 280 million cubic metres in the first stage.

The minister said a study was being carried out to determine the course of a gas pipeline between the two countries, with Jordan wanting delivery in its Red Sea port city of Aqaba.

In April, Mr. Banhi said Egypt would be ready to export natural gas in 1998 after the development of new fields which would ensure self-sufficiency. Output in the second half of 1994 rose to 5.7 million tonnes.

Israel and the Palestinians also want to import Egyptian gas.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 06/08/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	420	90255	214.500	215.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3338	15251	4.570	4.570
BANK OF JORDAN	550	1870	3.380	3.380
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6950	9018	1.280	1.300
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	8450	21299	2.520	2.520
THE HOUSING BANK	10516	59618	5.400	5.670
JORDAN KUMAT BANK	368	1030	2.810	2.820
JORDAN GULF BANK	12800	14954	1.140	1.173
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1755	6633	3.780	3.790
BUSINESS BANK	980	3666	3.850	3.860
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	550	1891	3.450	3.620
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21350	33250	1.090	1.090
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	17900	29031	1.620	1.630
BANKS SECTOR	85964	278239	INDEX NUMBER: 179.17	CHANGE: + 40.631
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	200	530	2.650	2.650
THE NATIONAL AREA INSURANCE	1000	3000	3.000	3.000
INSURANCE SECTOR	1205	3550	INDEX NUMBER: 135.54	CHANGE: + 0.001
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	15240	25714	1.690	1.680
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	64	350	5.510	5.510
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	271	761	2.860	2.810
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	331	738	2.220	2.200
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	250	303	1.200	1.210
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALARA	100	985	9.900	9.850
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	500	1125	2.240	2.250
ARAB TRAVEL FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	700	2268	3.240	3.240
SABA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	2650	3713	1.400	1.400
SERVICES SECTOR	20106	35955	INDEX NUMBER: 128.19	CHANGE: + 0.291
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	200	5160	27.100	25.800
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4111	15541	3.800	3.780
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	6250	18063	3.050	3.050
THE ARAB POTASH	245	1235	5.010	5.050
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3379	35143	10.450	10.400
JORDAN TANNING	473	3784	7.950	8.000
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	250	833	3.300	3.330
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	1400	10561	7.610	7.520
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INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	55418	185380	INDEX NUMBER: 130.50	CHANGE: + 0.291
GRAND TOTAL	162693	503124	INDEX NUMBER: 154.83	CHANGE: + 0.291
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		141962		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		99467		

Jordanian and French businessmen agree to set up \$30m company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and French businessmen have signed a tentative agreement on the establishment of the Arab European Tourism and Investments Company with a \$30m capital.

The founders of the company, who represent well known economic organisations in Jordan and France, will seek to set up a chain of hotels and restaurants in Jordan and the neighbouring Arab countries and will be conducting their work in agreement with the French company ACCOR which will later become a partner in the new company and employing its vast experience in supervising the hotels and restaurants.

Representing the Jordanian side at the signing ceremony were Mr. Zuhair Al Ourani, from the Jordan Gulf Bank, who will be chairman of the company's board of directors and Ali Suheimat, who represents the Al Sharq Company for Financial and Economic Investments and who will serve as deputy chairman along with Ziyad Salah, a businessman, and Marwan Kamal, who represents Yarmouk University's investments fund, as well as Ahmad Al Taher from the Al Salam Tourism Investments Company.

The French ACCOR company was represented by Jacques Loujiz and Andria Patnick. A statement following the signing of the agreement said that the new company will prepare a document for the final agreement which will be formally signed in Paris in 20 days time.

According to the agreement, the new company will be authorised to set up other companies specialising in managing hotels in Jordan and would be empowered to make similar investments in Iraq, Syria and Palestine.

The new company is planning to train its staff in cooperation with the ACCOR group which owns 2250 hotels around the world and 6000 travel and tourist agencies in 120 countries.

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (July 31 — Aug. 4, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated sharply against the yen and noticeably against the mark at the end of last week, while depreciating marginally against sterling. It ended the week 3.60 per cent higher against the yen, 1.17 per cent higher against the mark, and 0.28 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Monday upon the release of U.S. economic data showing positive results, and hinting that the U.S. economy has bottomed and is turning up. Personal income rose a modest 0.4 per cent in June, while personal spending rose 0.2 per cent. The Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index also rose to 49.7 in July from 47.6 in June. The dollar also benefited from news that the federal deficit for the year 1995 will be less than expected and that the U.S. administration might be able to balance the budget sooner than the year 2002.

The U.S. unit depreciated against other major currencies Tuesday, however. The dollar was affected by the sharp decline of the U.S. bond market earlier that day. The second market tumbled on the release of the National Association Purchasing Managers (NAPM) report showing a pick-up in industrial activity and triggering speculation that the Fed might not ease monetary policy at its next meeting. The NAPM index rose sharply from 45.7 in June to 50.5 in July, the first increase since last April. Meanwhile, safe haven buying of the mark and Swiss against the yen also weighed on the dollar.

The dollar closed sharply higher against the mark and yen Wednesday. It rose on a surprise announcement by the Japanese finance ministry that the government is taking steps to encourage Japanese companies to invest overseas, and thus encourages a weaker yen. Concerted intervention by both the Fed and Bank of Japan to prop up the dollar also drove the dollar higher to breach the 90 yen resistance level for the first time in five months.

Reluctance to take new positions ahead of the release of U.S. payrolls data the following day drove the dollar lower against other major currencies Thursday. The dollar rallied at the end of the week, however. It rose on comments by a Bundesbank official, who hinted that the Bundesbank will allow the securities repurchase rate to fall slightly the following week. These comments fueled expectations that the Bundesbank might lower its discount rate by 0.25 per cent at its next council meeting.

Meanwhile, the long awaited U.S. payrolls report came weaker than expected. Non-farm payrolls showed a modest rise of 55,000 in July compared to a consensus estimate of a rise of 111,000. The June's payrolls were revised upward to show a rise of 250,000 from an increase of 215,000 previously announced. The report left analysts wondering whether or not the Fed will ease its monetary policy in the near term.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.3972 marks, 91.41 yen and at \$1.6055 to sterling.

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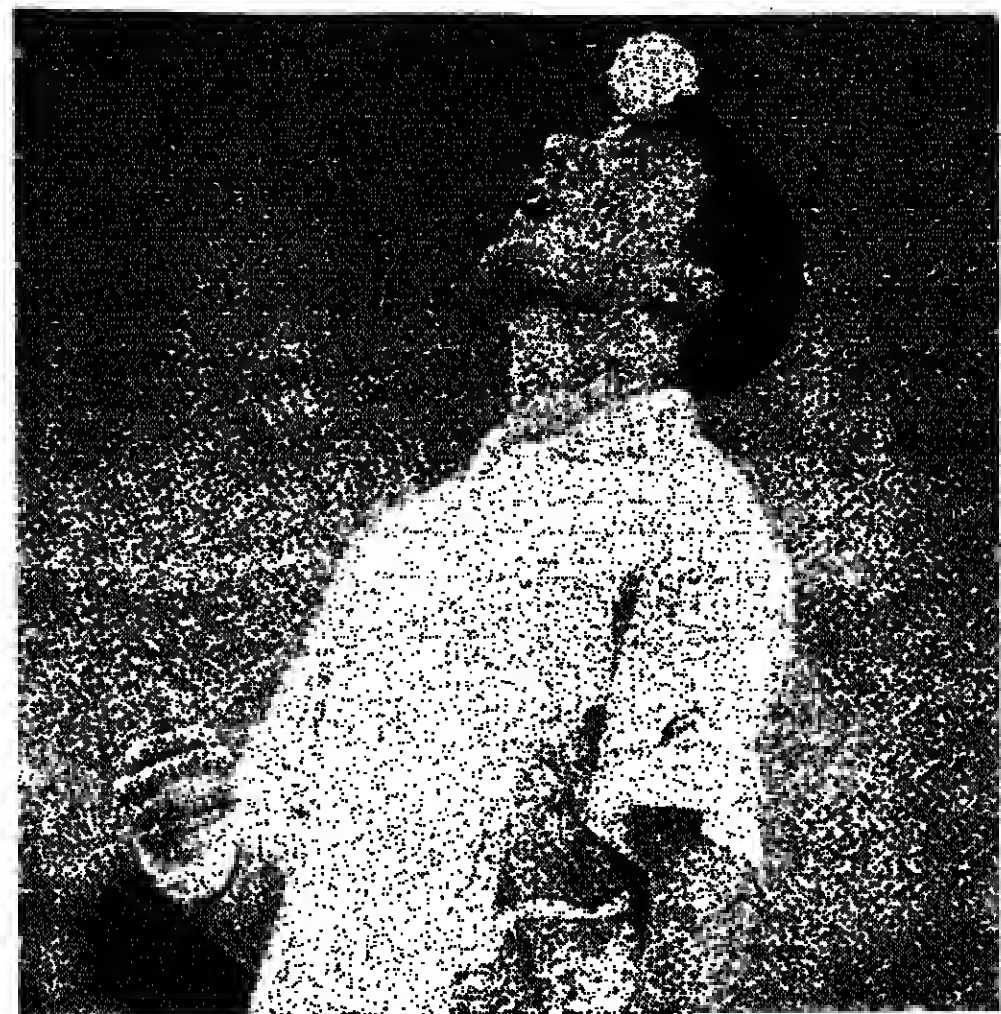
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Goran Ivanisevic

Ivanisevic falls to Enqvist

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Sweden's Thomas Enqvist beat top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic at his own big-serving game on Saturday to reach the final of the ATP Tour men's tennis tournament here.

Enqvist, 21 and seeded fifth, blasted 16 aces past the lanky Croatian, did not drop a single service game and made fewer errors from the baseline to win 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 6-4.

"I think I never served this good in my life," said Enqvist, who has won all three of this previous ATP Tour finals this year to jump to 16 in the world rankings.

"Especially against Goran, who serves very well, it's very important that you hold serve because it's so hard to break him," Enqvist said.

Ivanisevic saved one with a service winner, then netted a forehand.

"When you break Goran, it's always a turning point," Enqvist said. He was so absorbed in serving out the set that he did not notice Ivanisevic barely moved against his serves in the 10th game.

"I wasn't thinking about it too much," he said, though Ivanisevic's blatant tank was booed by the crowd. "I saw him on the last ball, he didn't move."

In the third set, Enqvist ended a long rally with a backhand volley winner to set up break point, and Ivanisevic double faulted to give Enqvist a 3-2 lead.

Enqvist fended off one break point in the eighth game, but went up 5-3 when Ivanisevic tried an ill-timed drop-shot on game point that fell short of the net.

Several of Steffi Graf's properties were searched on May 23 at the request of prosecutors.

DUESSELDORF (AP) — Brazilian international Julio Cesar scored off a miscalculated pass Saturday as Borussia Dortmund beat Moenchengladbach 1-0 in the Supercup prelude to the German first division season.

The Supercup pits the Bundesliga champion against the German Cup winner a week before the league season officially opens Aug. 12.

Dortmund, the defending champion whose forwards have been decimated by injuries, was unable to mount much offense the entire game until Stefan Effenberg lent them a hand in the 71st minute.

Trying to clear the ball, the Moenchengladbach captain kicked it backwards into his team's half of the field but it was intercepted by Dortmund striker Lars Ricken.

Ricken, Andy Moeller and Cesar then ran past two defenders as Moeller kicked it out to Ricken on the right flank. The 19-year-old then set up the veteran Cesar, who sneaked in from the left to unload a short powerful shot.

Dortmund survived a furious finish by Moenchengladbach, which has joined the Bundesliga's top clubs since acquiring Effenberg early last season.

In the 76th minute, Joerg

Neun's potential equalizer bounced off the goalpost after Dortmund goalie Stefan Klos longed and managed to get his fingertips on the ball.

Dortmund's offense sputtered with the 19-year-old Ricken and Moeller filling in for the injured starters.

"I feel a lot better in the midfield, but it was obviously the only solution today," said Moeller, the team's playmaker.

With strikers Stephane Chapuisat and Karlheinz Riedle still recovering from injury, Dortmund hopes that Heiko Herrlich will fill the gap.

Last year's league scoring

champion was acquired from Moenchengladbach Thursday after a legal tug-of-war between the two clubs that lasted weeks. But Herrlich was not available to play Saturday.

Dortmund's only chance in the first half came when midfielder Stefan Reuter charged up the center and unloaded a shot from 15 meters. It sailed just outside the net.

Moenchengladbach's chance came off Swedish international Martin Dahlin's header as he outpaced goalie Stefan Klos on a corner kick. But the ball sailed straight to Dortmund's Knut Reinhardt, protecting the line, who

cleared it with his knee. Despite playing three forwards, Moenchengladbach's offense was held in check by a Dortmund defense shored up by newly acquired Jurgen Kohler. The veteran German international made his debut for his new team, reunited in the defensive unit with former Juventus Turin teammate Julio Cesar.

No winner of the Supercup has gone on to capture the regular Bundesliga title since the event was inaugurated in 1987. Dortmund won in 1989 and on Saturday, in front of 35,000, became a two-time Supercup winner.

Graf to remain living in Germany

BONN (AFP) — Steffi Graf, formerly implicated in a tax evasion scandal, confirmed she would still live in Germany despite the charges.

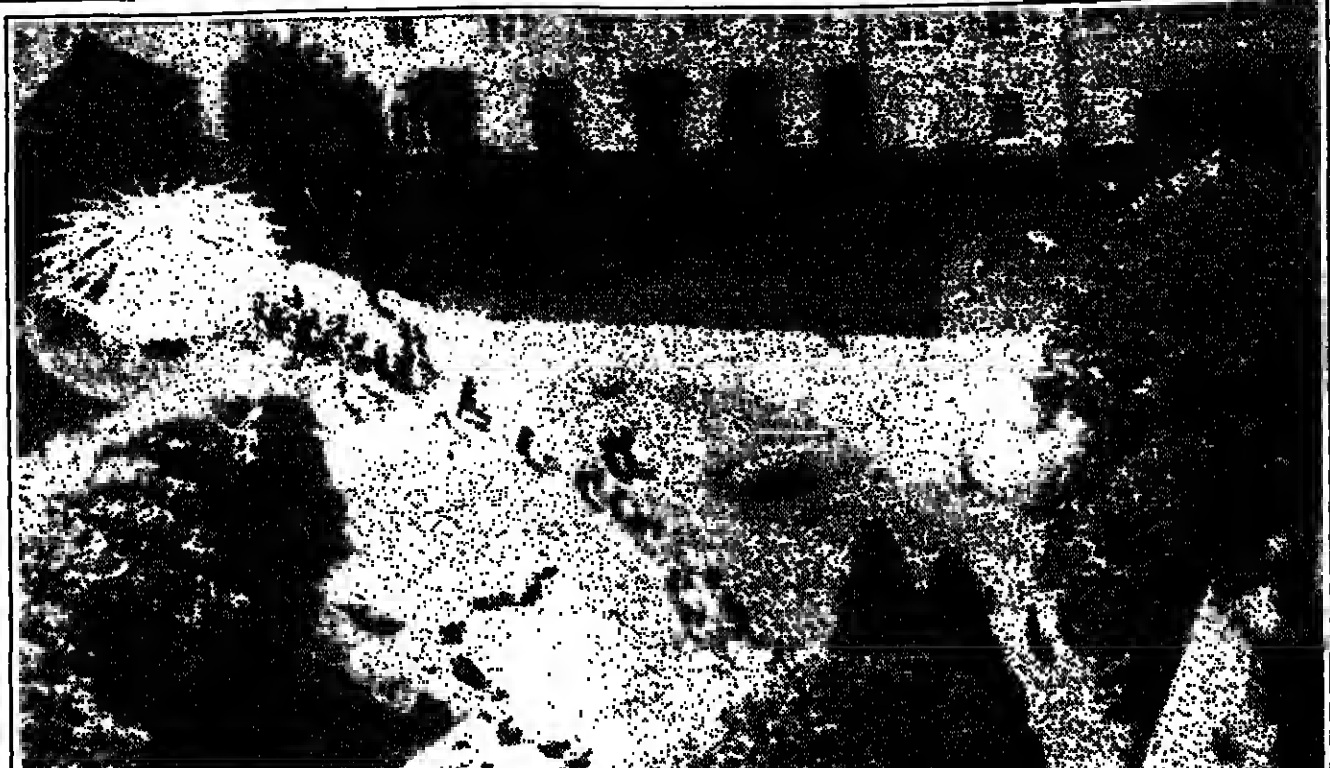
The world number one tennis star said in an exclusive interview with German public television station ARD screened Saturday: "I certainly intend to remain in Germany."

Graf, 26, further said she had no intentions of rejoining from tennis over the matter to dispel rumours in Germany.

Her father Peter, 57, who acts as her business manager, is still being held in a prison hospital near Ludwigsburg after being arrested on Wednesday.

Steffi Graf, whose personal wealth is estimated at 100 million marks (\$71 million), was aware of suspicions by public prosecutors in mid-May, in a first meeting in her luxury home at Brühl near Heidelberg.

Several of Steffi Graf's properties were searched on May 23 at the request of prosecutors.



This picture taken from a helicopter shows guests, who attended the wedding of Formula One world champion

Michael Schumacher, as they leave the chapel following the ceremony (AFP photo)

Michael Schumacher weds in church near Bonn

KOENIGSWINTER (AFP) — Formula 1 world champion Michael Schumacher and Corinna Betsch were married Saturday in a picture postcard church here in the hills overlooking the Rhine.

Exclusive pictures of the wedding at Sankt-Peter's church are said to have been sold to the German television channel RTL and Bunte magazine.

RTL has pledged the proceeds from the rights, estimated at 500,000 German marks (\$357,000), to UNESCO's

programme to protect children.

While German Chancellor Helmut Kohl sent a congratulatory telegram to the couple, who were married in a civil ceremony Tuesday in nearby Kerpen, not everyone was happy with the wedding.

Sankt-Peter's pastor George Kalkert said Schumacher's manager had persuaded Cologne Archbishop Joachim Meisner to put the church at the couple's disposal.

Sankt-Peter is normally available only to parish residents.

Bastia beat Bordeaux to go top

PARIS (R) — A double by Bruno Rodriguez gave Bastia a 2-0 home win over Bordeaux and allowed the Corsican club to emerge as surprise leaders in the French first division on Saturday.

Rodriguez scored in the 13th minute and again in the 69th to put Bastia on top of the 20-strong table with seven points from three matches.

Monaco, who were held to a 2-2 draw by Auxerre, and Metz, who won 2-1 at Cannes, are also on seven points but behind Bastia on goal difference.

The team from the principality were widely favoured to seize the lead

since champions Nantes slumped to a 2-1 defeat to Paris St. Germain on Friday.

Monaco made a perfect start with a header by Victor Ikpeba after 11 minutes before building a 2-0 lead with another header by Lilian Thuram in the 36th minute.

But Auxerre reduced the deficit through Stephane Givarc'h after a blunder by Monaco goalkeeper Fabien Barthez in the 48th minute and equalised with a superb long range shot from Algerian midfielder Moussa Saib eight minutes from time.

Metz impressed by winning at Cannes with two

goals by Robert Pieres, who scored in the 57th and 74th minutes.

Cannes equalised in the 60th minute through Johan Micoud but Metz kept pushing to record a win which takes them five places up to third.

Nantes, who lost new signing Jocelyn Gourvenec through injury on Friday, are fourth one point behind the top three teams.

Attacking midfielder Gourvenec, who joined the champions from Rennes, is expected to be out for several months after tearing ligaments in his left knee following a tackle by Paris defender Oumar Dieng.

Romario strikes young teammate

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Spain, Brazil, now Japan. No matter where he goes, Romario finds a new controversy.

The Rio daily O Globo reported Saturday the 1994 FIFA player of the year struck 22-year-old rookie Flamengo teammate Savio during the club's 3-2 loss to Japan's Kashima Reysol in an exhibition match on the Rio team's Asian tour.

Savio's father, Mazinho, said his son called him from Japan twice to complain about being pushed around by Romario and Edmundo, who had created "a horrible atmosphere" surrounding the team.

Mazinho, however, would not confirm other reports that Savio was so upset with Romario that he wanted to be transferred.

O Globo also published a news release by Flamengo directors in which Romario and Savio deny any incident took place.

But according to O Globo, Romario kicked and pushed Savio when Flamengo was losing 3-0. Savio was substituted at halftime.

Retired Brazilian national team and Flamengo star Zico told O Globo that "Savio's play has been way off the mark and it's a direct result of his relationship with Romario."

Zico expressed concern that the World Cup hero could endanger Savio's career.

"But Flamengo's team, charisma is enough to calm down any dispute between players," Zico added.

Brazil Grand Prize is not just a horse race

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Dress designers have been busy for weeks. The city's hair stylists are expected to work literally non-stop this weekend.

The annual Brazil Grand Prize is returning to its prominence as much as an event for Rio de Janeiro high society as it is as a top international horse race.

With 1 million reales (\$1.06 million) going to the winner, more than 80,000 are expected not only to fill the jockey club Hippodrome in the plush Gavea District for the race, but also the city's most prestigious clubs, restaurants, and social columns.

The 2.5 million reales (\$2.75 million) purse for the top three finishers is being billed by race organisers as the third largest in the world.

Brazilian thoroughbred much better is the choice of odds makers to win his

second straight crown, but others see Chilean Gran Ducato and the French-born Celtic Arms, representing an American stable, as a threat.

Twenty horses 4-7 years of age from the United States, Argentina, Chile, France and host Brazil compose the field for the 1½ mile (2,400-metre) flat jaunt over turf.

But the race is nearly secondary to the party atmosphere.

Women present will be competing for status among a specially selected jury in two hat competitions: classic and vanguard.

"Hats are in" blared a Saturday headline written by Rio daily Jornal do Brasil fashion editor Ilesia Rodrigues. "All the men may look alike in their tails, but the women parading in their stylish hats will certainly be the year's stand out," Rodrigues wrote in her weekly column.

"Champagne and Havana cigars are back in town," said a Rio tuxedo rental owner, Iothayr Reis Dumont.

"High society," not since the 1960's, has given this race so much attention," Dumont added. "Local celebrities will be galloping to the Hippodrome, if you want to be seen, the Grand Prize is the race to be at."

Jockey Jorge Ricardo, 33, is optimistic with his horse's week-long time trials and predicted the 6-year-old much better will reign at the Gavea Hippodrome for a second year.

"But for this race you can throw away statistics, favourites don't always win," Ricardo added.

Ricardo, the track's most heralded jockey, won his first of three Grand Prizes in 1992 atop Falcon Jet and hopes to win three more in his career to become the race's all-time winner.

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Sports

Fans go on hunger strike over relegation

ROCANA DEL CONDADO, Spain (R) — Spanish soccer fans have gone on hunger strike in protest at the decision to relegate their team Sevilla from the first to the third division because of administrative errors.

About 100 fans in Rocana Del Condado, south of Seville, said they would not eat until the club, which finished fifth in the first division last season and qualified for the UEFA Cup, was reinstated to the top flight.

"The hunger strike will last until we drop, or until there is a solution for Sevilla," said supporters' spokesman Miguel Motejon. "We Sevillians have Sevilla in our heart. We love Sevilla to death."

Two clubs, Sevilla and Celta of Vigo in northwest Spain, were demoted to the third division by the Spanish Football League (LFP) last Tuesday when they failed to provide bank guarantees to support a percentage of their 1995-96 budget.

The LFP said Albacete and Real Valladolid, relegated last season with bottom club Logrones, would be restored to the 20-team first division.

A crowd of 25,000 angry fans marched through the Andalusian capital demanding the decision be reversed.

The Archbishop of Seville, Carlos Amigo, said he was concerned by the LFP decision and its impact on the city and the club's supporters.

In Vigo 10,000 Celta fans demonstrated outside the ground, waving club banners and scarves while club directors rushed to Madrid to appeal against the decision.

On Friday the Spanish Cabinet discussed the situation and on Saturday Sevilla's long-serving club president Luis Cuervas resigned in the face of constant barracking by fans.

He resigned to take some of the pressure of the club, and because that's what a lot of the fans wanted," said caretaker President Jose Maria De Nido.

National and regional governments are now involved in the dispute. "We want a solution that doesn't harm the fans," official government spokesman Alberto Perez Rubalcaba said after Friday's Cabinet meeting.

"But for those that haven't complied with the laws, if that's what they've done, they should be punished."

Sevilla and Celta have lodged appeals with the superior sports council, the country's highest sports authority. The council is expected to rule on the appeals on Monday.

Weekend newspapers reported that secretary of state for sport Rafael Cortes would resign if the appeals were successful.

Companies in Sevilla and Vigo fear a substantial loss of business if the clubs are relegated.

Sevilla stand to lose about \$10 million in revenue from sponsorship, television rights and publicity. Gate receipts will also inevitably fall.

In 1992 most Spanish clubs were obliged to convert themselves from simple sports clubs to registered companies with proven capital.

Clubs now registered as companies must give the league guarantees each year to support at least five per cent of their budget for the coming season.

World Athletics Championships
Lewis pulls out; Huffins upstages O'Brien

GOTEBORG (AP) — Carl Lewis announced he was pulling out of the World Championships because of injury Sunday while Chris Huffins upstaged two-time defending decathlon Dan O'Brien with a meet record 10.34 seconds for the decathlon 100 metres.

Lewis, who aimed to add to his collection of eight World Championship golds by a good performance either in the long jump or 400 relay, said that after talks with his coach, he was not risking either.

"This is it for the season," said Lewis, who picked up the left hamstring injury competing in the long jump at the Olympic festival at Colorado Springs, eight days ago.

"I just finished a workout and my leg feels a lot better. But I talked to coach (Tom) Tellez about how I feel now and I'm not going to compete at all. I would have loved to long jump but it appears risking injury would ruin my chances for next year. He's my coach, I respect his decision."

The injury also means the U.S. team will have even more trouble choosing a quartet for the 400 relay, which they have always won.

The team was already weakened by the absence of world record holder Leroy Burrell and Andre Cason. Then Dennis Mitchell pulled up injured in the 100 heats, and now Lewis is not available.

Running in the same heat as O'Brien, Huffins surged clear of his countryman, who held the previous best mark for the decathlon 100m of 10.41 set in 1991 when he first won the world title.

The time gave Huffins a big early points lead after the opening event, 1.013 to O'Brien's 959. And he increased it after the next discipline, the long jump, when he leaped 7.85 metres.

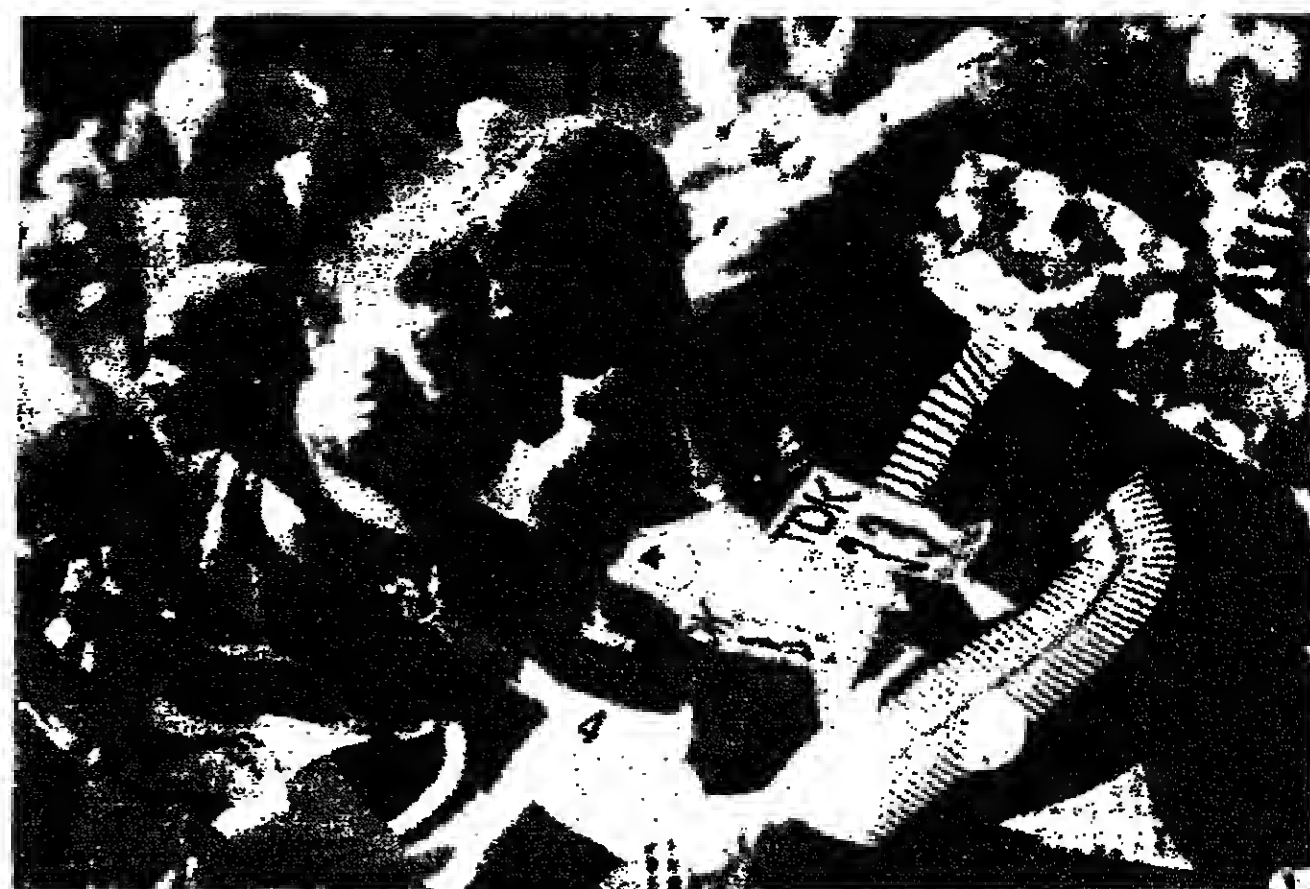
O'Brien's best leap of three jumps was 7.55 well below his best of 8.01.

After two events, Huffins had 2,033 points and O'Brien had 2,033 in third place with 1,906. Second was Estonia's Erki Nool with 1,943, who leaped 7.83.

One early surprise in the decathlon was that European champion Alan Blomdel of France was effectively ruled out of contention after only two events after being red flagged three times in the long jump.

The highlight of Sunday's action was the men's 100 metre final later, with Linford Christie, provided he got through the semifinals earlier in the day, aiming to keep the title he won in Stuttgart two years ago.

Among those gunning for his title were American sprinter Mike Marsh, Donovan Bailey and Bruny Surin of Canada and Frankie



Britain's world and Olympic champion Linford Christie starts his 100m heat at the World Championships in Athletics in Goteborg, Germany (AFP photo)

Fredericks of Namibia.

Other finals were the men's 20 kilometre walk, the hammer, the women's long jump and 100m hurdles.

American runner Gwen Torrence ran an impressive 11.11 to be fastest qualifier in Sunday's opening round of the women's 100 metres.

The 30-year-old Olympic 200-metre champion, whose best this season is 11.02, appeared to ease in the final strides as she produced a performance that gave her rivals a target for the second round, later Sunday.

Merlene Ottey, beaten in a photo-finish by Gail Devers two years ago at Stuttgart, won her heat in 11.15 after a series of false start calls that seemed to anger some of the athletes.

Russian sprinter Irina Privalova, the European champion, clocked 11.28 but also was slowing, while another American sprinter, Carlette Guidry, ran 11.18 to win her heat. Germany's Melanie Paschke also matched Ottey's 11.15 in winning her heat.

Defending titlist, Olympic champion and world record holder Javier Sotomayor grimaced in pain after each of his qualifying leaps in the high jump.

Although he comfortably cleared 2.27 to move on to Tuesday's high jump final, the Cuban appeared in discomfort each time he moved away from the mat, removing his left shoe to reveal heavy bandage around his ankle.

Olympic 10,000 metre champion Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia moved up from back in the pack to win the

first heat in 32 minutes 16.71 seconds. Britain's Yvonne Murray was second in 32:16.76 while South Africa's Elana Meyer was a safe qualifier back in fifth in 32:17.97.

Portugal's Fernanda Ribeiro won the second heat in 32:33.87, 1991 titlist Liz McColgan was second in 32:33.89 and American runner Lynn Jennings was third with the same time as McColgan.

Drummond was all over his case. "What's all that dipping?" The fun-loving Drummond said. "Your shoes aren't strong enough or they're too tight."

Then, Drummond needed the 35-year-old Christie, a grandfather, about his age. "Are you going to run in the masters and break all those records?" Drummond said.

"Let's not get into that, shall we?" Christie said. Drummond then took one more friendly jibe at Christie. "Linford looks great," he said. "If I were to pass him on the street, I'd think he was 32."

Better days to come: Hopefully, the best is yet to come at the World Championships, but the worst might already have been on show.

In the women's shot put, Nabeela Mabrook beaved the 4-kilo shot all of 5.71 metres on the first day of competition. In comparison, Astrid Kumbernuss of Germany won the gold medal with a heave of 21.22 metres.

Mabrook was still well short of the Palestine record of 8.70 metres and was eliminated in qualifying.

In the men's 10,000 metres, Ismael Ould Adermaz of Mauritania was lapped three times by the leading runners in the first qualifying heat. But he kept on plugging away, cheered on the remaining crowd in the Ullevi Stadium. He went on to beat the national record by less than a second to set a mark of 33 minutes 04.49.

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Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie won the race in 28:10.16.

Marsh unfazed by others' false starts: U.S. champion Mike Marsh was unperturbed by four false starts by others in his quarterfinal heat of the 100-metre dash.

"I like when they hold the gun for a long time," Marsh said. "That's the way I train. I wait for the gun. Guessing puts things up to chance."

Marsh, the 1992 Olympic 200 gold medalist, also was undisturbed by his reputation of being a long sprinter rather than a short one.

"I never believe the past is any indicator of the present," he said after winning in a wind-aided 10.03 seconds.

"I could bomb in the next couple of races. I don't believe in positive voodoo."

Hall wants respect: Darnell Hall, the world indoor 400-metre champion, won't let favoured Michael Johnson be an easy winner in the world outdoor 400.

"I won't hand it to him," Hall said after Saturday's first-round heats. "He's going to have to earn it."

"He's my best buddy. We hang out a lot, and we understand that he's the best in the world."

"I may get passed at the end, but I'll make my presence felt. I'll push Michael to run what he wants to run. If he breaks the world record, more power to him."

Johnson was thankful for Hall's determination.

"I appreciate the help," he said. "If I can get a world record, I'll take it."

Martinez downs Pierce to reach final

CARLSBAD, California (R)

Second seed Conchita Martinez and ninth-seeded American Lisa Raymond both defeated French foes Saturday to set up a meeting in the final of the \$430,000 Toshiba Tennis Classic.

Martinez of Spain picked apart Mary Pierce 6-1 6-3, while Raymond dismissed Sandrine Testud 6-4 6-3 in the semifinals.

Though the score indicated a romp, the 23-year-old Spaniard hardly agreed in her appraisal of the one-hour 17-minute sweep against world number three Pierce.

"It wasn't easy at all," said Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion. "I had to fight my way until I could win the match. I fight for every ball."

make her play another shot, and maybe she makes some errors she's very impatient."

Martinez heavy topspin forehands and sliced backhands frustrated the hard-hitting Pierce into 29 unforced errors.

"She's very impatient all the time," said Martinez. "You have to be very patient and aggressive at the same time. You need to pick the right ball, spot and time, and go for it."

Martinez claimed the first set after surviving two break points in each of her first two service games before getting on track.

Pierce offered a stiffer challenge in the second set by rushing the net more. But she blew her chance to force a

third set by double-faulting French as Raymond employed her aggressive serve and ground game to get past Testud.

"There's nothing to say," said Testud, ranked 62nd. "She served very good and I didn't until the last few games. She played better."

The seventh game away, giving the Spaniard a 4-3 edge. "I made too many mistakes," said Pierce, who has dropped two of three career meetings against the Spaniard.

"It's disappointing when you know you can beat somebody, when you feel you're better than them and you should win, but you end up missing and lose the match."

Broncos down 49ers 24-10

TOKYO (AP) — For San Francisco quarterback Steve Young, there was one bright spot to the 49ers' 24-10 loss to Denver Sunday.

The defending Super Bowl champions "got the fat cat beat out of us," Young said.

"If we go loafing into the season, we'll get punched in the mouth, so why not get punched now?"

After having their first score handed to them — a field goal after an early fumble by Denver quarterback John Elway — the 49ers found all their drives stalled by penalties, fumbles, errors and an interception.

"We made some mistakes and that's not acceptable for any team — first team, second team, third team," Young said.

Meanwhile, Denver took advantage with passing bombs by John Elway and Bill Musgrave and a long interception return by Keith Burns.

It was San Francisco's second consecutive loss to the team now coached by the 49ers' former offensive coordinator, Mike Shanahan. Denver won 9-7 a week earlier in the exhibition season opener.

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Qatar, S. Arabia discuss improving Arab ties

DUBAI (R) — The new emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, started a one-day visit to Saudi Arabia on Sunday and discussed with King Fahd how to improve relations between Arab nations, the official Qatar news agency said.

It said the emir, on his first foreign visit since he ousted his father, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani in a palace coup in June, was received at Jeddah airport by the king.

The agency added that they "reviewed efforts to remove the Arab chasm and close Arab ranks on objective and realistic basis and the agreement on an Arab code of honour governing relations between Arab countries, big and small."

The agency said they also discussed means of "restoring (Arab) solidarity ... and removing causes of division."

The 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent 1991 Gulf war left the Arab World divided between those who supported Kuwait and those who were seen to have sympathised with Baghdad.

Both Qatar and Saudi Arabia joined a U.S.-led alliance which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

But Qatar, under the guidance of the New Emir as crown prince, has befriended radical Iran, restored ties in 1992 with Iraq and gone further than other Gulf states in normalising ties with Israel — all largely at odds with Saudi Arabia.

The agency said the two leaders reviewed regional developments and means of consolidating the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), grouping them along with Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the

United Arab Emirates.

It said the two sides studied means of consolidating bilateral relations between their two countries in all fields.

"They affirmed their desire and keenness to increase the two sister countries," it added without elaboration.

Diplomatic sources had said the talks were expected to include a border dispute.

A 1992 border agreement between Qatar and Saudi Arabia has run into difficulties. Diplomats said there were hopes to settle this dispute which led to clashes three years ago.

Saudi Arabia has moved this year to settle its border with the United Arab Emirates, signed a border deal with Oman and a framework for delineating its border with Yemen and is said to be prepared a settlement with Kuwait.



REFUGEES CRISIS: Croat Serb refugees sit on the top of a truck waiting to cross the Bosnian-Yugoslavian border (AFP photo)

Tenor returns with hurt foot — breaks leg

MACERATA, Italy (R) — An Italian tenor, shot in the foot during an execution scene in last week's opening night of the opera Tosca, hobbled back to the stage Friday — and broke a leg.

Organisers at the summer festival in eastern Italy said tenor Fabio Armiliato lost his balance while leaning on a crutch off stage after the first act. He broke his right leg in two places and went back to hospital in an ambulance.

Armiliato, whose injury will force him to rest for two months and will mean the cancellation of some commitments in the United States, had been using the crutch backstage for support after injuring his left foot last week. The tenor had not been using the crutch on stage, preferring to sing unsupported with a soft cast on his leg. Festival staff said last week it appeared the tenor had been hit by flying debris from a blank fired from a rifle used in the execution scene near the end of the third act.

The tenor, loudly applauded by the audience on his comeback, had earlier said he was returning so as not to disappoint the fans at Macerata, whose open air festival is one of the highlights of summer opera in Italy. "I want to give my utmost," he had told reporters during the interval.

"This audience deserves it." After the accident, he added from the stretcher taking him away for the second time: "Could it be that I am destined never to leave this theatre on my own two feet?"

Diana seeing English rugby captain — paper

LONDON (AFP) — Diana, the Princess of Wales and the estranged wife of Prince Charles, has been seen by the captain of the English rugby team, Will Carling, the News Of The World newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper said Carling, 34, has been keeping "secret trysts" at her London residence, Kensington Palace, "up to three times a week."

Carling has also installed a special telephone to receive calls from Lady Di, who provided him with her direct number, according to the paper.

Carling, a former secretary to Carling, is quoted as saying the rugby star has been "running around after her like a puppy."

The couple reportedly became acquainted at Chelsea gym where they both frequently work out. The paper said they have exchanged "intimate gifts."

Princess Diana, according to the News Of The World, calls Carling "captain." He reportedly calls her "The Boss."

Gerry Adams' 1st dates were with Protestant girls

LONDON (AP) — Gerry Adams groped with the enemy long before they got into bed. The leader of Sinn Féin, the party closely allied to the Irish Republican Army (IRA), said Saturday his first "fumbling explorations" with the opposite sex were with Protestant girls who lived across the street. Mr. Adams, 46, said he was unaware of politics as a teenager in Northern Ireland. "When I was in Ballymurphy as a teenager and we began to discover there was such a thing as sex and there was the opposite sex, our first fumbling explorations were... with Protestant young women — simply because they were just across the road from where we were," he said.

Mr. Adams, speaking in an interview broadcast Sunday on Independent Television, has been in peace talks with British officials since last year, when the IRA declared a ceasefire in the 25-year Northern Ireland troubles. It was a rare instance of Mr. Adams, who many Britons see as a didactic revolutionary, opening up about his personal life. He said he "demomising" treatment he receives in the British press. Catholic nationalist groups like Sinn Féin ultimately seek to unite the British-ruled province with Ireland. Protestant Unionists want to maintain ties with Britain. Over 3,000 people have died in the conflict.

House postpones debate of 'unconstitutional' article in draft law

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government Sunday called on the Lower House of Parliament to postpone discussions of an article in the draft law on telecommunications that allows administrative problems to be solved in a tribal manner. The call came after some deputies said the provision is unconstitutional.

While the draft law provides for measures to tackle all violations mentioned in the crime and punishment section of the legislation, it stipulates, in article 66, that

the general director of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has the authority to arbitrate in violations that are not specified in the section.

Chairman of the Judiciary Committee Abdul Karim Dughmi criticised the provision, saying that the court is the final arbiter in any breach of the law. He said that the general director of the TCC could not be given the authority to pass judgments and rulings.

"This is against the constitution," Mr. Dughmi said. "How can we give the director judicial authority?"

Minister of Justice, Hisham Al Tal said the issue is of paramount importance and should be further discussed. He called on the House speaker to give the government more time to discuss the article and its implications.

The House is expected to discuss the article in its Wednesday session. Until now, the House endorsed 65 out of the 91 articles of the draft law.

Except for article 66 and article 29, lawmakers passed most of the articles quickly and without introducing amendments.

PNA shuts 2 newspapers affiliated with Islamists

GAZA CITY (AP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Sunday closed down two weeklies affiliated with Islamic fundamentalist groups opposed to peace talks with Israel.

Palestinian Attorney-General Khaled Al Kidreh said Al Watan, backed by the Hamas group, and Al Istiklal, backed by the smaller Islamic Jihad, would not be allowed to publish until further notice for violating a press law that went into effect last month.

"The papers violated the rules set by the Palestinian Authority," Al Kidreh told the Associated Press. He would not give details.

The new law, while promising freedom of expression in the media, also bans publication of "secret information" on PLO troops as well as stories seen as inciting violence or sectarianism. The penalty for violating it is suspension of a publication for up to three months, fines and jail terms of up to six months.

PLO sources said the papers' closure was actually caused by their repeated harsh criticism of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Taliban pledges to topple Rabbani

MOHAMMAD AGHA, Afghanistan (AFP) — The Taliban religious movement fighters said Sunday that they still intend to use military force to remove Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani from power.

"We do not recognise Rabbani (administration) as a government," they said. "He is only a gang, a group of tyrants," said Taliban military affairs spokesman Abdul Razaq.

Mr. Razaq, who is based in this provincial district centre about 40 kilometres south of Kabul, said the Taliban had a religious right to remove Mr. Rabbani.

The Taliban force, led by religious students, appeared on the Afghan scene last November. They rapidly took over several provinces and advanced on Kabul but were driven by Mr. Rabbani's troops earlier this year.

Iraqi germ data important but may be lacking — U.N.

Baghdad insists report is full

BAGHDAD (R) — A report submitted by Iraq on its biological weapons programme breaks years of silence and holds important information but may be incomplete, a senior U.N. envoy said on Sunday.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, told Reuters at the end of a three-day visit to Baghdad that more time was needed to analyse the 530-page document handed over on Friday.

"According to our first glance it is of course not thoroughly complete," Mr. Ekeus said.

But he said his experts, after initial scrutiny, found that it "contains very important information which will be helpful to sort out remaining problems under the ceasefire resolutions."

Several hours earlier, speaking to reporters, Mr. Ekeus described the report as "full, final and complete."

He did not elaborate on what data might be missing.

State newspapers said Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told Mr. Ekeus that Iraq had honoured conditions for lifting the embargo on Iraq's oil exports and urged him to convey this to the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq claimed in the declaration that it had destroyed all biological weapons. "For us it remains to verify that this is true," he added.

Mr. Ekeus said he was determined to close the Iraqi weapons files as soon as possible and noticed a strong will on the Iraqi side to solve

Iraqi germ data important but may be lacking — U.N.

standing issues quickly.

"We have to move speedily on this. From our side we will do our utmost to get this job done as quickly as possible."

The biological file is the last remaining issue between Iraq and UNSCOM which has said it would not recommend a lifting of a U.N. ban on Iraq oil exports unless it was satisfied with Iraqi disclosures and verifications of past activities.

Wide-ranging sanctions were imposed on Iraq shortly after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus said UNSCOM knew that Iraq had produced germ weapons but Baghdad had denied it for four years.

"Iraq's keeping of the secrets ... has delayed everything," he said.

Mr. Ekeus said he would report to the U.N. Security Council soon but did not say whether he would tell the members that Iraq had completed the ceasefire requirements on weapons.

He said the impression that the international community was still hostile to Iraq was wrong.

"There is preparedness, willingness and eagerness to get Iraq back to the international community," he said.

Mr. Ekeus met Mr. Aziz and Oil Minister Lieutenant General Amir Mohammad Rasheed on Saturday. They agreed that a team of specialists and Mr. Ekeus would return soon.

Baghdad has threatened to stop cooperation with the United Nations if Mr. Ekeus's mission is not over by the end of August.

The official Jumu'ah newspaper said Baghdad had given Mr. Ekeus a full report on the destruction of its germ warfare programme.

"President Saddam Hussein summed up Iraq's position on July 17 when he said he could not continue to apply U.N. resolutions and meet UNSCOM's demands without it being tied to a lifting of the embargo," Jumu'ah recalled.

"The month of August has just started and UNSCOM has enough time to finish checking Iraq's biological arms programme in the time mentioned in order to present its final report to the U.N. Security Council," Jumu'ah said.

It said the council would then have to apply paragraph 22 of U.N. Resolution 687, which requires Iraq to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term arms monitoring before the oil embargo could be lifted.

The newspaper warned UNSCOM "against any delay" in complying with the ultimatum which was first announced here last month.

"UNSCOM has in fact completed its mission and the verification (of the germ warfare report) can be accomplished quickly if it wants to complete its mission successfully and distance itself from problems and crises."

"Any new delay would be unacceptable, unjustified and would not be in UNSCOM's interest because it would threaten to cause its mission to fail," the newspaper said without elaborating.

"Iraq has met its basic obligations on prohibited weapons," it said.

"Regarding the verification of documents concerning the biological weapons programme, it is secondary and doesn't influence UNSCOM's essential task," it added.

If the United Nations has doubts about any weapons programme "they can be cleared up by the monitoring system set up by UNSCOM," it added.

"It is not possible to keep silent any longer on the injustice committed against the Iraqi people and what the Iraqis have tolerated has exceeded all limits," the paper said.

The United Nations wants Iraq to honour all Gulf war ceasefire resolutions — not just those covering disarmament — before the embargo on oil exports is lifted.

Iraq had to account for missing Kuwaitis, end the "export of terrorism," stop "repressing" its own people in the north and south of the country and abide by all Security Council resolutions to get sanctions lifted.

Madeline Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said last week.

As Mr. Ekeus left, about the two dozen Iraqi patients, suffering from diseases for which they could not find medicine due to the sanctions, demonstrated outside the smart Al Rasheed Hotel.

"We have respect for Iraq's serious concerns on the suffering of the Iraqi people," Mr. Ekeus said.

Iraq has rejected a U.N.-authorised deal by which it could export limited quantities of oil to purchase humanitarian supplies, saying it infringes its sovereignty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia awaits U.N. approval for more troops to Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — The government here has made a fresh appeal for United Nations permission to send more Malaysian troops to Bosnia as U.N. peacekeepers and upgrade the firepower of its soldiers, reports said Sunday.

"We are now waiting for the U.N.'s approval to send the 450 men to Bosnia," Defence Minister Syed Hamid Albar was quoted as saying. Malaysia currently has some 1,500 Malaysian battalion troops serving under the U.N. banner in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A previous request to increase their numbers and firepower was rejected by the U.N. Mr. Syed Hamid said more weapons were also needed for Malaysian troops. "That is what we are planning, to make sure that our men have the ability to keep and enforce peace," he said. Malaysia has threatened to defy the arms embargo on Bosnia — which Muslim nations have declared invalid — but said it will only act in union with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Saddam summons military command

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has summoned his armed forces command for a meeting, the state-run Iraqi news agency reported. President Saddam, also commander-in-chief, discussed "armed forces matters" with high-ranking officers and military advisers on Saturday, the news agency said in an urgent dispatch monitored in Cyprus. No further details were provided.

The meeting took place during a visit by chief U.N. weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus, who arrived Friday to determine whether Baghdad is releasing enough information about a biological weapons programme it acknowledged only two months ago.

Second Serb town falls

(Continued from page 1)

warplanes to bomb government-held sections of the Bihać region in Bosnia.

Defending Bihać, which the Croats considered essential to their national interests, helped cement an agreement two weeks ago between the Croatian and Bosnian governments to strengthen their military alliance. But it also gave the Croat army leave to pour thousands of troops into southwestern Bosnia within striking distance of Knin.

Saturday, for the first time, units of the Muslim-led Bosnian army crossed into Croatia and linked with

through the area for several hours, witnesses said. The other militants were killed between Tuesday and Friday in Relizane, Blida, Jijel, El Bordj, Menaïel, the commune said.

Qadhafi Hiroshima message broadcast at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, in a message to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, has called for a "historic strike" to bring about the destruction of all arms. "How can we grieve Hiroshima and Nagasaki if we do not stop the butcher from making the knives of death?" he said in a "pre-recorded message broadcast during a concert for peace," hosted at the Vatican late on Saturday night. "We must declare a historic strike to the very end until all arms have been destroyed," Mr. Qadhafi said.

Somali gunmen holding 12 Pakistanis

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali gunmen have been holding 12 Pakistanis captive in the Mogadishu residence of faction leader Mohammed Farah Aidid for the past five months, a former Somali relief worker has said. The Pakistanis were arrested by the gunmen in March while they were fishing at a beach 26 kilometres south of Mogadishu, according to Abdi Ali Mohammad, a former employee of an international relief agency here. It was not immediately clear why their capture was kept secret for so long, but reliable sources here said the gunmen were planning to demand a large ransom, but were unable to contact the captives' relatives, sources said. Mr. Aidid considers Pakistan an enemy of Somalia for having taken part in the U.S.-led U.N. peacekeeping effort in Somalia that ended earlier this year.

Croat troops, severing northern and southern sections of Serb-held Croatia and breaking the Serb encirclement of Bihać.

In Knin, about 800 frightened civilian refugees joined hundreds of U.N. peacekeepers at their compound, which was surrounded by Croatian army troops and at least one tank.

"United Nations military officials have seen clear evidence of the looting by Croat soldiers of Serb houses in the town," U.N. spokesman Alun Roberts said.

The fate of patients at Knin's hospital, which was shelled on Saturday, was not clear, Mr. Guinness said.

2 Islamists executed in Cairo

Police detain suspects in Mubarak attack

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two Muslim militants were executed Sunday on convictions for killing a policeman and two Coptic Christians and joining the outlawed group blamed for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Earlier Sunday, security forces arrested five suspected Muslim militants who, police said, were trained in Sudan with the would-be assassins of President Hosni Mubarak and sent to Egypt to murder government officials.

The militants sneaked across the border from Sudan and were acting under order from Mustafa Hamza, identified as a leader of the team that tried to kill Mr. Mubarak in Ethiopia on June 26, police sources said.

The men executed Sunday, Hossam Hassan Ismail and Ahmed Mahmoud Abdel Rehim, were convicted by a military court in May of the three murders last year. They were hanged in a Cairo prison.

Defendants charged with joining the banned group Jihad. At the time of their arrests, officials referred to the defendants as members of a group called the vanguards of conquest, but they later said it was a revival of the Jihad.

The court gave 28 of the defendants sentences ranging from life imprisonment to one to five years. Twelve others were acquitted.

Sunday's hanging bring to 50 the number of convicted militants executed in the three years since Muslim radicals began a campaign to topple the government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. More than 780 people have died in violence, mostly police and militants.

The five men arrested Sunday were seized in Cairo, nearby Giza and in Daqahliyya in the Nile Delta north of the capital, according to police sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. They did not say when the five entered Egypt or name their intended targets.

Mr. Mubarak escaped unharm when assailants opened fire on his motorcade during a visit to Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. He has since blamed Sudanese leaders of masterminding the attack. Sudan has denied the

Both had been charged with trying to overthrow the government. Mr. Abdel Rehim was also convicted of stealing large amounts of ammunition from an army depot and illegally possessing weapons.

They were among 42 de-

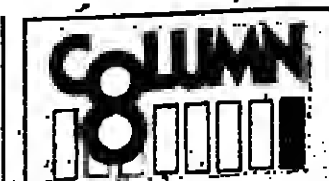
The government newspaper Al Ahrar said the men, who were detained in possession of documents and computer discs outlining the organisation's strategies, would stay in detention while the discs were sent away for inspection by specialists.

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Tenor returns with hurt foot — breaks leg

MACERATA, Italy (R) — An Italian tenor, shot in the foot during an execution scene in last week's opening night of the opera Tosca, hobbled back to the stage Friday — and broke a leg.

Organisers at the summer festival in eastern Italy said tenor Fabio Armiliato lost his balance while leaning on a crutch off stage after the first act. He broke his right leg in two places and went back to hospital in an ambulance.

Armiliato, whose injury will force him to rest for two months and will mean the cancellation of some commitments in the United States, had been using the crutch backstage for support after injuring his left foot last week. The tenor had not been using the crutch on stage, preferring to sing unsupported with a soft cast on his leg. Festival staff said last week it appeared the tenor had been hit by flying debris from a blank fired from a rifle used in the execution scene near the end of the third act.

The tenor, loudly applauded by the audience on his comeback, had earlier said he was returning so as not to disappoint the fans at Macerata, whose open air festival is one of the highlights of summer opera in Italy. "I want to give my utmost," he had told reporters during the interval.

"This audience deserves it." After the accident, he added from the stretcher taking him away for the second time: "Could it be that I am destined never to leave this theatre on my own two feet?"

Diana seeing English rugby captain — paper

LONDON (AFP) — Diana, the Princess of Wales and the estranged wife of Prince Charles, has been seen by the captain of the English rugby team, Will Carling, the News Of The World newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper said Carling, 34, has been keeping "secret trysts" at her London residence, Kensington Palace, "up to three times a week."

Carling has also installed a special telephone to receive calls from Lady Di, who provided him with her direct number, according to the paper.

Carling, a former secretary to Carling, is quoted as saying the rugby star has been "running around after her like a puppy."

The couple reportedly became acquainted at Chelsea gym where they both frequently work out. The paper said they have exchanged "intimate gifts."

Princess Diana, according to the News Of The World, calls Carling "captain." He reportedly calls her "The Boss."

Gerry Adams' 1st dates were with Protestant girls

LONDON (AP) — Gerry Adams groped with the enemy long before they got into bed. The leader of Sinn Féin, the party closely allied to the Irish Republican Army (IRA), said Saturday his first "fumbling explorations" with the opposite sex were with Protestant girls who lived across the street. Mr. Adams, 46, said he was unaware of politics as a teenager in Northern Ireland. "When I was in Ballymurphy as a teenager and we began to discover there was such a thing as sex and there was the opposite sex, our first fumbling explorations were... with Protestant young women — simply because they were just across the road from where we were," he said.

Mr. Adams, speaking in an interview broadcast Sunday on Independent Television, has been in peace talks with British officials since last year, when the IRA declared a ceasefire in the 25-year Northern Ireland troubles. It was a rare instance of Mr. Adams, who many Britons see as a didactic revolutionary, opening up about his personal life. He said he "demomising" treatment he receives in the British press. Catholic nationalist groups like Sinn Féin ultimately seek to unite the British-ruled province with Ireland. Protestant Unionists want to maintain ties with Britain. Over 3,000 people have died in the conflict.

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NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus carrying ammunition by Egyptian representatives of extremely warm since being arrested. Stavris told AFP a request for information "concern" for Ministry, told AFP quick response. representative in the Angeliki M. on them since the law and regular stopping the ship Canal.

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ZAGREB — Defence Gorko Susak Croatian military retake Serb-held Croatia's Karlovac ended late Monday. "As far as military operations are concerned, we have a presence here."

"Five to six thousand are currently staying in Topusko," he said south of Zagreb.

Mr. Susak said government troops killed in the operation 620 wounded. The official figure for the of Serb dead.

The figures are official tally of conflict.

Egyptian, UAE leaders meet

CAIRO (AP) — The heads of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates met Monday in Abu Dhabi to discuss the search for a way to end the Gulf crisis.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Emir of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Rabin denies security steppe

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin denied Monday a newspaper report that he had ordered a security steppe in the West Bank.

Rabin said Sunday that the security steppe was a "real danger" to the peace process.

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CAIRO police foil press conference

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian police Sunday foiled a press conference by a group of Egyptian nationalists.

The group was holding a press conference in a hotel in Cairo.

The police said the group was "disturbing the peace" and "inciting violence."